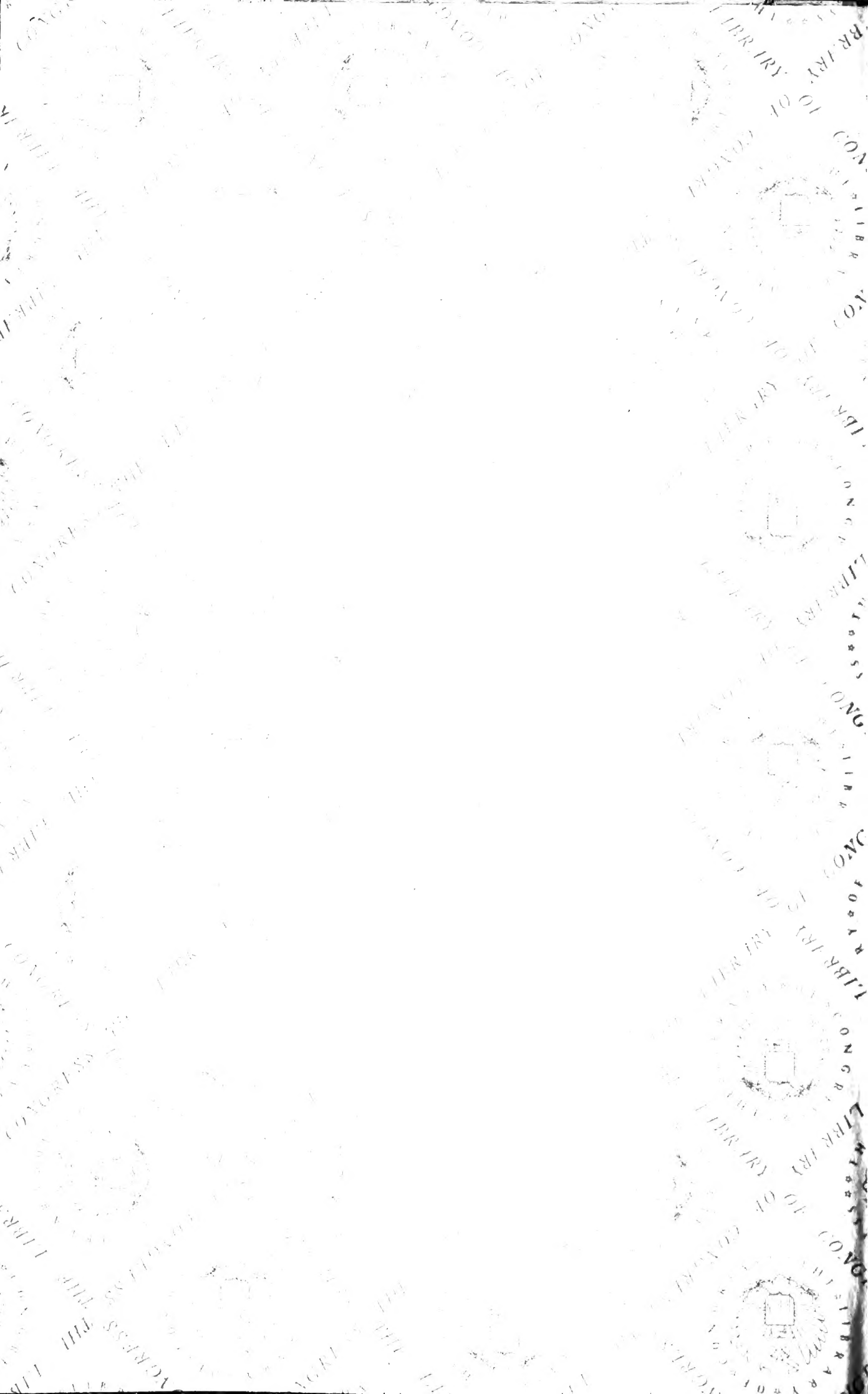


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# BEAGLES = AND = BEAGLING

*A. F. Hochwalt*





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# Beagles and Beagling

*Albert Frederick*  
BY  
A. F. HOCHWALT

"

## AUTHOR OF

*"Dogcraft", "The Pointer and the Setter in America", "The Modern Pointer", "The Modern Setter", "The Airedale for Work and Show", "Dog Keeping for the Amateur", "The Working Dog and His Education", "Bird Dogs, Their History and Achievements", "The Farmer's Dog", "Dogs As Home Companions", Etc.*



1923  
SPORTSMAN'S DIGEST PUBLISHING CO.  
CINCINNATI

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## INTRODUCTION

THE beagle seems to be constantly growing in popularity. He is the favorite sporting dog of the classes as well as the masses. Far back in the days of Queen Elizabeth this merry little hound furnished amusement and pastime for royalty, clergy and laity, and he has come down through the ages, losing nothing of his early prestige; but, on the other hand, gaining favor everywhere. At the present day he is cherished by rich and poor alike and, judging from the constantly growing list of field trials in all parts of the country, his star is not only still far from descending, but is assuming greater brilliancy from year to year.

There is good reason, however, for the popularity of the beagle. Perhaps one of the best is that he does not require commodious or luxurious kennels. He is thoroughly at home in any environment. And while some of the more pecunious fanciers have erected elaborate establishments for the breeding and development of the beagle, it is generally conceded that more really good hounds have been bred in the backyards of the workingman, or under the floor of some farmer's barn than amid the most costly surroundings. The beagle is not the pampered pet of the wealthy; his requirements are few. Ordinary care and attention in the way of dry sleeping quarters, wholesome food and a certain amount of exercise will keep him at his best. Being a small dog, the cost of upkeep is moderate; he is com-

paratively easy to raise and, as a rule, he is not difficult to break for the field; nor does it require the services of a professional trainer to bring out his best qualities. Furthermore, the favorite game of the beagle is to be found wherever there are open spaces. The rabbit is a denizen of all climes, whether it be the cotton tail, the snow shoe, the northern hare, or any of the many other varieties. The beagle is an adept in working all classes of this prolific tribe. In this connection, it might be observed, that while other game may become scarce or even extinct, there is little danger of the genus *Leporidae* passing out of existence.

In those states where the quail has been wrongfully placed upon the song bird list, the beagle has made the most rapid strides toward ingratiating himself into the hearts of the sportsman. Ohio is one of those states, and as a result more beagles are bred and owned within its boundary lines than any other breed of sporting dog. His rise in popularity might have been at the expense of other varieties, but such a condition is only natural, for once a sportsman always a sportsman, and when the primitive instincts of man are suppressed in one direction they will find expression in another. With the passing of the quail in Ohio many a bird dog lover transferred his love for sport to the beagle, perhaps without the smallest pang of regret, for the merry little hound can furnish him an abundance of exciting pastime.

To own one, or a brace, or a pack of beagles entails a comparatively small investment. It is true the supply and demand regulates prices, but there

are ten breeders of beagles today where there might have been but one a score of years ago. And while prices for dogs are in keeping with the general trend of the times, the demand seems to be met very well.

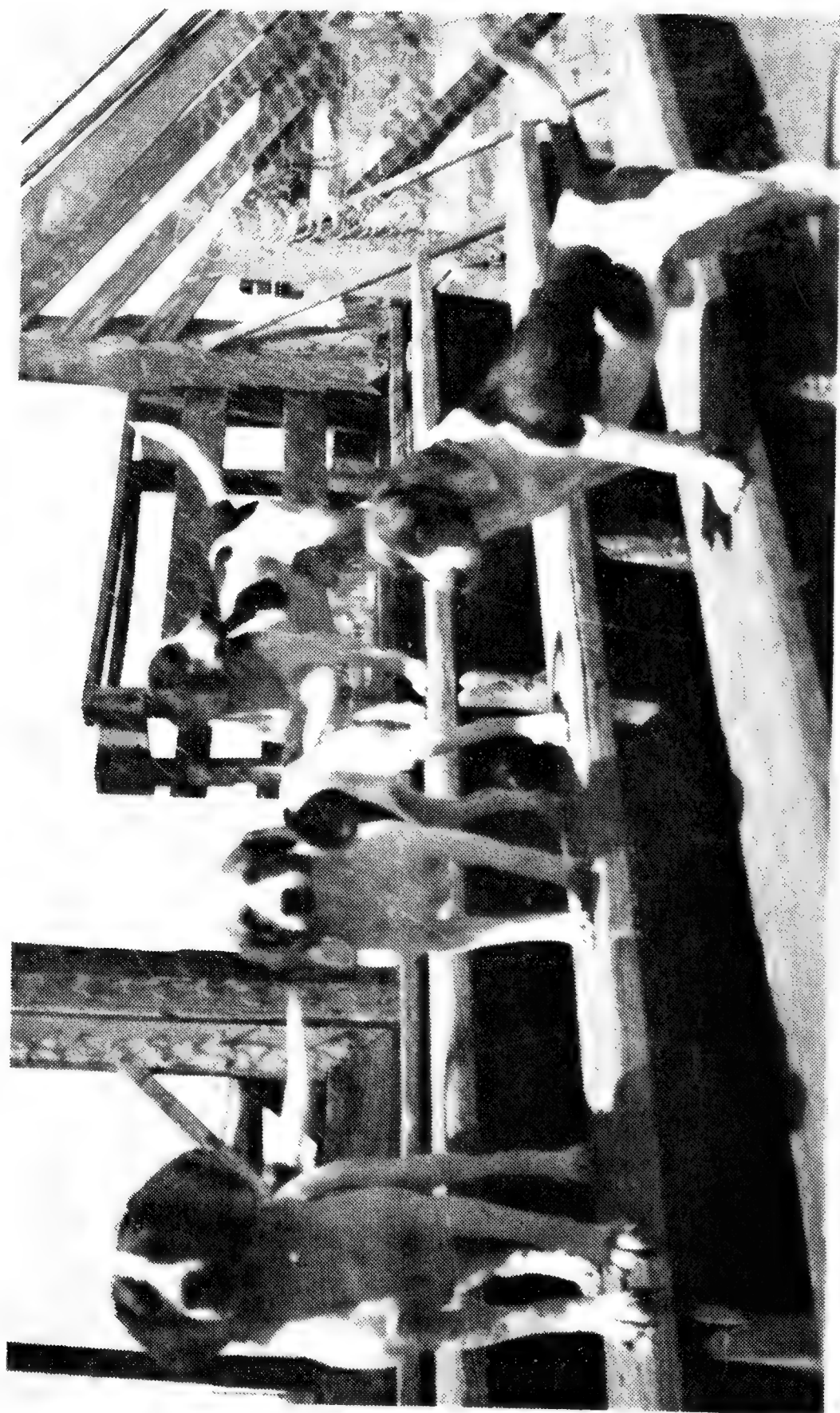
No doubt the tremendous growth of beagle trials in practically every state in the Union is the most remarkable feature in connection with this breed. Begun as an experiment less than thirty years ago, their development and popularity spurted up with mushroom-like rapidity. Beagle trials, however, may be participated in at a much lower cost than bird dog trials; no doubt that, in a great measure, accounts for their rapid rise. The sport is not the pastime of the idle rich alone, but may be indulged in by all who are imbued with the spirit of sportsmanship regardless of the size of their purses. Clean, wholesome sports are the heritage of the American nation and in this particular class of recreation its votaries may be great or small; they meet on the field of these competitive tests on equal terms. The workman, the artizan, the professor, the lawyer, the doctor, the financier, rub shoulder to shoulder and in beagle trials this spirit is exemplified to a greater degree than anywhere else. The man of means may pay large sums to have his hounds trained, but the workman or the artizan, devoting but a few hours a day to his dogs, brings them to the trials as well prepared as the financier, and he has the same chance to win. Dogs, like men, meet on equal terms and that constitutes the esprit de corps of the entire system.

The fancy or business of beagle breeding has become a fixed industry. Pedigrees are as carefully

studied in the production of this useful and beautiful little hound as are those of any other variety of domestic animal. Haphazard breeding is no longer resorted to. Blood lines have a definite value, consequently the beagle fancier, whether he be professional or amateur, wishes to know all he can learn about his favorite breed and he who is successful measures his triumphs by the time and study he has given his hobby.

In a book confined to the limitations of the present little volume it is impossible to go into the most minute details of the beagle's history, for the subject is much larger than the size of the dog might warrant, but his inches are not measured when writing of his many desirable qualities. He is unquestionably a dog for all time; he occupies a distinctive place in the realms of field sports. Granting this to be beyond dispute, I shall endeavor to at least touch upon the most salient features of his sphere of usefulness and his development in America.





A Fine Team of Beagles.



## CHAPTER I

### *Early History*

**L**EGEND and tradition, if not authentic history, tell us that the beagle was known in the days of King Henry VIII, but came into still greater popularity when his daughter, by Anne Boleyn—Elizabeth—reigned as Queen of the English people. In those days, it is said, the beagle was a great favorite, of royalty itself and old pictures are extant showing the Court going out on its hunts with beagles carried in the gauntlets of the huntsmen and huntswomen or in the panniers of the saddles.

From this we must necessarily draw the conclusion that the beagles in vogue those days were very, very small, or the gauntlets and panniers very large. We do know for a certainty that the beagle most in favor in those days ranged in size from eight to twelve inches. Occasionally at this day and date we see some specimens of the breed under nine inches, but they are considered almost too small for practical work. Some years ago, however, Norvin T. Harris, of Shadwell, Va., had a bitch measuring under nine inches which he wrote me about frequently and which he stated, gave him as much pleasure and satisfaction in the hunting field as any of the regulation size beagles. The standard measurements of the present are divided into two classes, namely, under thirteen inches and thirteen inches and under fifteen. These two divisions are

accepted as the correct measurements at the present time and they are so classified at field trials and bench shows. Anything larger than fifteen inches is disqualified.

Reverting again to those early days. The claim is made that the beagle is the result of experiments in crossing the old south of England or Southern hound with the harrier. By a concerted system of breeding to the smallest specimens so produced the beagle was eventually brought down to the miniature size which was in style during the times of Queen Elizabeth. The vogue for this small type of dog did not last, however. These dwarfed specimens, while possessing keen noses, very musical voices and a peculiar adeptness for hunting in packs, were very slow; so slow indeed that they were scarcely able to run down their quarry, although it is said they would worry over a trail for hours and by this very persistence accomplish in the end what they set out to do. Namely, take up the scent and drive to a kill or to the place where the hare holed or disappeared.

According to Youatt, who wrote during the first half of the past century, the miniature beagle, did not remain popular long, but practically dropped out of vogue for a long time, although, after a lapse of many years the breed was resuscitated. In the edition, published in this country in 1846, and edited by E. J. Lewis, M. D., Youatt says the following:

“There are many pleasurable recollections of the period when the ‘good old English gentleman’ used to keep his pack of beagles or little harriers, slow

but sure, occasionally carried to the field in a pair of panniers on a horse's back; often an object of ridicule at an early period of the chase, but rarely failing to accomplish their object before the day closed, 'the puzzling pack unraveling wile by wile, maze within maze.' It was often the work of two or three hours to accomplish this; but it was seldom, in spite of her speed, her shifts and her doublings, that the hare did not fall a victim to her pursuers.

"The slowness of their pace gradually caused them to be almost totally discontinued, until very lately, and especially in the royal park at Windsor, they have again been introduced. Generally speaking, they have all the strength and endurance which is necessary to ensure their killing their game, and are much fleeter than their diminutive size would indicate. Formerly considerable fancy and even judgment used to be exercised in the breeding of these dogs. They were curiously distinguished by the names of 'deep-flewed,' or 'shallow-flewed,' in proportion as they had the depending upper lip of the southern, or the sharper muzzle and more contracted lip of the northern dogs. The shallow-flewed were the swiftest and the deep-flewed the stoutest and the surest, and their music the most pleasant. The wire-haired beagle was considered as the stouter and the better dog."

The more pedantic student will even go farther back than the days of the Tudors for the origin of the beagle. Some writers assuming that a dog known as the "Kenet" in the days of King Canute and Edward the Confessor is the beagle of today. Whether it was or not, can scarcely affect the little

hound's status at the present time, for while it may appear to be more erudite to endeavor to establish these claims to the animal's great antiquity, I do not see what benefit it is to the owner living in the twentieth century, for in the final analysis, no proofs have ever been forthcoming to show that the dogs of King Canute's times were the same as the beagle of later days. The name, beagle, as a matter of fact, is of French origin from the corrupted word "beigle," meaning small.

Coming down to later days, "Idstone" mentions a number of good packs of his day, in his book, "The Dog," published in 1872, and we may draw the inference from his and other writers of the mid-Victorian period, that owners of these little hounds bred for purity of type and breed characteristics. It was much the same with the beagle in England, as with foxhounds or bird dogs. Every country estate which kept the breed at all, confined the breeding operations within its own lines, thus, the various strains were well established by the time they began to be recognized as a breed in this country.

The writer previously mentioned, alludes to one pack as follows: "One pack I remember belonged to a very large, lame wine merchant; it may be observed that men of great size generally affect the most diminutive dogs which they can find. He had ten couples varying from about 13½ inches down to 11 inches in height."

Farther on he cites a pack that was broken to the gun, which was evidently more or less of a novelty in those days (Idstone's Book was published

in 1872). "I have known beagles broken to the gun," he writes. "An old friend of mine, long dead, Henry Franklin, Esq., M. D., had such a pack at Aldernay, and with such voices as they ran in view, one would fancy that the rabbits could have heard them across that dangerous tide the Swinge, and amongst the green lanes of Guernsey, eighteen miles away. These came from Devonshire, from a Mr. Clack, but they were rather large for the purpose." Another pack that he speaks of, is that of James Crane, of Southover House, near Dorchester. The members of this pack were small ones, but according to our authority were a swift lot. Of these he says: "At my urgent request he has exhibited them once or twice, and I need hardly say, with complete success, winning everywhere. His standard is nine inches, and owing to their wonderful hind-quarters and general frame development, they can account for a rabbit in about five minutes. I believe that Mr. Crane originally took to the beagles to rid himself of the rabbits which had become quite an annoyance on some of his furze and moorland, and which, from the nature of the ground, were always beating him in keeping them within bounds. On this wild tract, which forms a wide district commencing about a mile from his house, there is every chance for the rabbit if pursued by ordinary means. Ferreting is difficult, for the old earths are deep, intricate and extensive. It is always a great treat to me to have a day's hunting with these beautiful beagles."

As has been the case with other breeds of dogs, crosses of various kinds have been introduced into

the beagle at various times. No one, naturally, can furnish positive proofs of these crosses, for nearly every English country estate that kept packs had "its own secrets in breeding," just as the late Edward Laverack, the breeder of setters maintained that "there were some secrets" he did not deem advisable in giving to the public. The secrets, it has since been shown, are the crosses he used in his setters.

In some cases the strains have probably been kept purer than others. The old heavy type of black and tan strain, known as the "Kerry beagle," was perhaps pure of his kind, but he was slow and almost too painstaking; something like the old Spanish pointer of the past would be as compared with our modern dogs. The Kerry beagle was essentially a miniature bloodhound, heavy flews, long ears, great dewlap and in fact, even his expression resembled the bloodhound in a small edition. He, it is said, was of Irish origin.

There came a demand for swifter dogs than those of this type, however, and it is then that the various crosses are supposed to have been resorted to. The greyhound was one of these crosses and some say the deerhound, while still others claim that a dash of the spaniel has something to do with the long-haired varieties that were more or less popular in some districts. Another quality was still needed; this was gameness. For this purpose the bulldog cross was used and sometimes the fox terrier. Perhaps the latter was resorted to much oftener than some might suppose and when one looks over the numerous types of beagles and notes the terrier



expression in so many of them, he can well imagine that the fox terrier or some of the other terrier varieties have had something to do with the formation of certain strains.

The southern hound type as exemplified by the Kerry beagle, however, is the preponderating influence and it is from this variety that the beagle inherits his keen nose. But the Kerry beagle is scarcely an influence in our present day beagle, and it is doubtful if his blood is to be found in any of the modern strains. As a matter of fact, the Kerry being a dog ranging as high as twenty-four inches at shoulder, is more likely to be one of the crosses that entered into the composition of our American foxhounds and coonhounds. I have often thought that, though the coonhound is supposed to be of plebeian birth, if his ancestry could be traced, it would be found that he has as royal blood in his veins as any of our present day dogs and it is beyond dispute that his nose is keener than the average type of hound. No doubt the Kerry beagle is responsible for this.

The American foxhounds, known as the Henry strain, are also said to be descendants of the Kerry beagle.

However, when all is said, hounds of various types, colors and sizes came to this country in Colonial days and the early history of the beagle is therefore analogous with that of the pointer and the setter. Early importations of these varieties came over from that sport-loving nation—England—and no records having been kept, they were known in later days as natives. Beagles were in

the same category. There were so-called beagles of all kinds in America, previous to authentic records; large straight-legged beagles, low bench-legged varieties, black and tans, white, black and tans, tan and whites, etc. Bloodhound types, harrier types and terrier types.

The real history of the beagle here in America, however, begins about the same time as it does with the pointer and the setter. This dawn of a new era took place in the seventies and the man who is given credit for bringing the first true-bred beagles to this country is General Rowett, of Carlinville, Illinois. He was a horseman, but a lover of the little hound. His pack, or packs were selected in England and no doubt emanated from various estates where the "merrie little hound" was bred. His selections were evidently made with care and an idea for future breeding, for it was soon discovered that he had the best blood and a uniformity of type, hitherto unsuspected to exist, by fanciers in this country. In color they were evenly marked, white, black and tan, and it soon became bruited about among hunters that these beagles of General Rowett were the last word in beagle breeding, for they represented quality, as far as bench show form was concerned, and they proved to be of great excellence afield.

The General did not scatter this blood about promiscuously, but some of his friends and acquaintances secured specimens of the strain and before long the Rowett type of beagle became the recognized one. Among the early dogs of Rowett were Rosey, Sam and Dolly. Warrior, sometimes credited

as being an original Rowett importation was in reality brought over by Mr. Turner, but he was of the same type and he was used by the General. From the union between Turner's Warrior and Rowett's Rosey came many good ones. Dodge's Rattler being one of the descendants, and he proved to be of paramount influence in bringing the Rowett blood down through succeeding generations. It was in the eighties that the controversies over beagles began to get interesting, and at this period a desire for a real beagle standard was expressed. The result was the formation of the Beagle club. The committee appointed to draft the standard, consisted of General Rowett, N. Elmore and L. H. Twadell. In a letter, which appeared in one of the out door magazines in 1892, from the pen of Mr. Twadell, he tells how it came about that the maximum height of the beagle was fixed at fifteen inches. The letter was called forth by the discussions that were taking place through the sportsmen's press at that period, which was several years after the club had been formed and the standard adopted. Eugene Lentilhon, in his excellent book, "Forty Years' Beagling," quotes the letter in full, but I shall content myself in referring only to that part which relates to the height question. Mr. Twadell says the following:

"And now the reason for fixing the limit at fifteen inches. In the old days anything a little smaller than a foxhound was by courtesy called a beagle; if a pure-bred beagle dog was accessible he was crossed on small foxhound bitches, and if at all prepotent, the produce showed enough beagle character,

barring size, to pass muster and satisfy their owners. The result of this slip shod, ignorant method was that the country was filled with mongrel nondescripts posing as beagles; witness our earlier bench shows. It was to strike at the root of this evil and rescue the breed from utter extinction that I decided to draw the line, rigidly fixed in the standard, knowing that the little thoroughbred could not be bred from the big mongrel, and that those who wanted the true beagle would hark back to the pure source to get him.

"I will not go into an extended argument. The subject has been ably and thoroughly handled by Messrs. Chapman, Ashburner and 'Bradley,' and others, and left little to say. The claims of the advocates of the larger dog—that he is more enduring—should, however, be answered.

"I grant that if a mixed pack, i. e., one say of 16-inch and 12- or 13-inch dogs are run together, the small dogs will be at a disadvantage, for the reason that the larger dogs, from their greater speed and stride keep the little ones on the keen jump to stay with them. This being above their rating gait, of course exhausts and tires them in a protracted hunt. The remedy is simply to assort the pack to as nearly one size as possible and weed out the overgrown dogs. Thus selected, the small dogs will be found to afford the best sport and prove the most killing pack, giving many more chances to the gun, as the rabbit stays longer above ground than if rushed at foxhound speed by beagles of nearly foxhound size."

There seemed to be considerable controversy on

this size question for a long time, but the standard was fixed and thus it has remained up to the present day with no likelihood of its ever being changed, at least not in the direction of advocating hounds taller than fifteen inches.

Reverting again to those early strains; after the death of General Rowett, or in fact, long before, many beaglers began seeking this line of blood and while the dogs bred by the Carlinville fancier were not distributed promiscuously, a few of the more ardent, and at the same time, thoughtful breeders acquired some of these individuals, and the fame of the Rowetts was assured, though it was done, not by boastful statements through the press as many a much less worth while breed had been exploited, but through sheer merit of the dogs.

Perhaps two breeders who should be given greatest credit for maintaining the Rowett blood are Pottinger Dorsey and C. Staley Doub, both of Maryland. There were others, as I have said, who had the strain, but these two are greatly responsible for preaching the merits of it. Naturally, at this day and date it is impossible to mention the names of all of those early descendents of the original Rowetts, but among them were such dogs as Rambler, Rally, Lee, Rosey, Venus, Countess and others; all of which became famous progenitors of later day performers.

It was some time in the eighties that other good dogs were imported and among those who were responsible for bringing them over is N. Elmore, of Granby, Connecticut, who was one of the organizers of the National Beagle Club and a member of

the committee for drawing up the standard. Mr. Elmore imported Ringwood and Countess, both being by Bismarck, out of Gayless. In Pennsylvania, Colin Cameron and Captain William Assheton were becoming interested in the little hounds at this time and their contribution consisted of Racket, a dog which soon became popular. He was by Rally, out of Louise which was by Lee, out of Rosey; and there was another Rally, by the Original Sam, out of Dolly.

Among those bred by Pottinger Dorsey were Fitz-Hugh Lee, Jupiter, Lee II, Storm Cloud, Wanderer, Emiline, Potomac and Venus, all of which lived their lives and had their influence upon the breed in the way of establishing a fixed type and improving the field qualities. Both Mr. Dorsey and Mr. Doub valued the blood lines to such a degree that they seldom sold their stock, though they would part with a good one now and then to some keen sportsman or fancier. Furthermore, neither of these two gentlemen cared very much about showing, rather being concerned in perfecting the field qualities of their hounds.

Some strains of dogs, whether they are beagles or other varieties, become well known through exploitation, and very frequently, certain lines of blood or individual kennels obtain a notoriety far out of proportion to the merits of the stock represented. Such, however, cannot be said of the Rowetts bred by Staley Doub and Pottinger Dorsey. Because these strains were in reality working strains of beagles with generations of practical dogs behind them, some of the owners of show beagles and espe-



cially those who kept their hounds for little more than to lead them around during show week in Madison Square Garden, were inclined to pass up these Maryland beagles with a sneer, but I might say right at this point, were it not for such men of this type who kept up the strain as they did, our beagle of today would be nothing more than a show dog. The only unfortunate part of it all is that Messrs. Doub and Dorsey did not exploit their strain more, in order to let the beagle fanciers at large understand what manner of dogs these descendants of the Rowetts really were.

There was another strain descended from the Rowetts, however, which was exploited on the bench. The strain was bred and shown by Daniel O'Shea, of London, Ontario, who was an expert in the show business and made a champion of Rattler, a dog which in the real sense might not have been a flyer from a bench show point of view, but he was always shown to the best advantage and so gained his championship honors in a short time.

The Rowett blood began to spread about the country despite the restrictions that were put upon it and New England obtained a goodly supply through Champion Fitz-Hugh Lee and Bowman. Both dogs were successful as sires, Fitz-Hugh Lee being particularly so. Another dog appeared about this time and one destined to make quite a bit of history. This was the imported Champion Bannerman, which came from the kennel of J. Crane, of Dorsetshire. The dog was imported by A. C. Krueger, of Wrightsville, Pa., who at that period

(about 1884) was one of the very active beagle fanciers of the country. Bannerman was a small dog and was used by his American owner to counteract size. It will be remembered that the Crane Pack was kept to the uniform size of nine inches and when any of the dogs attained more height than that, they were promptly drafted out. Bannerman was over the Crane limit, but he was a direct descendent of Damper and that ilk which bred true to the nine inch mark for generations. It may be inferred from this, that Mr. Krueger's importation of Bannerman was a well thought out plan, if the sole idea was to breed for smaller size. In this country Bannerman soon became a champion. His get were all lightly marked; that is, there was too much white and not a sufficient amount of the black and tan, or characteristic hound markings, and for this reason there was some objection to him, but as a direct influence, only one dog of his time was his peer.

This dog was Frank Forest, owned by H. L. Kreuder, of Nanuet, N. Y. Champion Frank Forest, it seems, had the best bitches of the country sent to him, consequently his opportunities were somewhat better than Bannerman. Luck frequently plays its part in the breeding of dogs as it does in all things of life and thus it was with Frank Forest. Early in life he was successfully mated with a bitch called Sue Forest, a daughter of Comeroe, one of the Elmore strain and it is well known that all of the latter were field dogs; in fact, it was conceded to be a field strain pure and simple, the owners caring more for utility than they did for the preservation

of pedigree and for this reason, Sue Forest goes down in history as unpedigreed. Despite all this however, all of her progeny proved to be field workers beyond the average and so also, the progeny by Frank Forest proved to be. It is said that Sue's mother was an imported bitch, but be this as it may, Sue Forest had the qualities, although she was on the large order and would likely be measured out of even the large class at the present time.

From the mating of Sue Forest with Frank Forest came Champion Clyde, Sunday and Gypsy Forest, and each in turn produced winners. Clyde was under thirteen inches, despite the maternal side of his breeding, and he seemed to produce his own kind down through the generations. Clyde, mated with Ida Novice, proved to be a particularly happy nick, for all of the progeny proved to be hunters of exceptional merit. Clyde's son, Champion Trick, was a remarkably handy little hound in the field and gained his championship through sheer merit. Thus we find three field champions in a direct line, namely Frank Forest, Clyde and Trick, which seemed to be evidence enough that the Forest blood bred on, when mated with the right kind of bitches.

A field strain of beagles that had a great vogue in the eighties and nineties was known as the Blue Caps. As a matter of fact, dogs of this strain are winning regularly today and I know for a certainty, if I were looking for a dog to use as a gun companion I would not hesitate on the Blue Caps, were I able to get one. Many claims that the true color of the beagle is black, white and tan, which no doubt is correct and probably the desire for these

colors has led to more or less prejudice against the Blue Caps.

There has been more or less discussion over the Blue Caps and their origin, some making the claim that the color comes from the old blue spotted harrier, or a native small-eared foxhound. As far back as in 1888 some writers in the sportsmen's journals advised keeping away from the "Blue Belles," "Blue Boys" and "Blue Caps" if they wished to breed pure beagles. Fortunately, this advice was not heeded judging from the success that this strain has had as field trial dogs and as hunting companions as late as this present season of 1923.

The small-eared native foxhounds might have figured in the cross with the Blue Caps after they came to this country, but, if the old blue spotted harrier had anything to do with making the strain the rabbit dogs that they are, then he deserves the everlasting gratitude of real field beaglers. It is stated through other writers that the Blue Caps came originally from the kennels of Sir Arthur Ashburnham, in England, and that William Assheton was responsible for the first importations. In conformation and particularly in markings they were entirely different from the Rowetts, although perhaps even more showy. Many of them are blanketed with black from shoulder to stern, while the collar, underbody and legs are mottled with blue and tan ticks and the head is a rich tan. Personally, I always had a great admiration for these markings, and after seeing so many of them in the field and

noting their excellent work, I confess my preferences always went to the Blue Caps. In the matter of type, the Rowetts are perhaps stronger in head points and truer in expression, but those are distinctions of little value when field merit is considered, although I do not mean that the Blue Caps were superior to the Rowetts, even in those early days.

The Blue Caps have always been credited, however, with having a greater love for the scent of the rabbit than any other strain, but it seemed that the crossing of this strain with the blood of Bannerman was particularly successful. Bannerman, as before stated, came from a small strain and he did much to keep the height at shoulder down within the limit, not only in breeding to the Blue Caps but also with the Rowetts, for Bannerman was equally successful as a cross with the latter. The Blue Caps, however, were bred about as pure as anywhere up in Canada, where Hiram Card held forth in Ontario.

Bannerman died at a ripe old age in the kennels of F. W. Chapman, of Ellsworth, Maine. He did as much good for the breed, though perhaps not in a direct line, as did Frank Forest, but through his descendents in various combinations. Jack Bannerman was one of his sons that did much toward bringing down this blood to present generations.

Among the breeders who have been successful in breeding the Bannerman-Rowett combination and keeping the size down very small was W. E. Deane, of Somerset, Mass. He evidently did not consider markings alone and the same may be said of C. S.

Wixom, F. B. Zimmer and several other beagle breeders of that period who introduced this blood into their kennels with very excellent results.

During this early period a number of other beagles had some sort of influence upon the breed, all of which assisted in the eventual building of present day strains. The Royal Rocks imported in the early eighties by Mr. Arnold, of Providence, had some influence on the New England beagles though this did not extend very far, especially in a practical way in improving field merit, although as a background in present day pedigrees one does not look upon this blood as objectionable; on the other hand, it is considered quite an asset, especially when it is mingled with the Rowett blood; Reed's Dan D. being a particularly influential source.

Comeroe, previously referred to as one of the well known dogs of the Elmore strain, bred and owned by Norman Elmore, of Granby, Conn., was from a combination of imported Ringwood blood and the Rowetts. Ringwood was imported by Mr. Elmore very early and was crossed with excellent results upon the Rowett blood.

W. Stewart Diffendorfer, of Baltimore, Md., was another prominent breeder in the eighties and nineties. Among the dogs that he imported was Chimer, and at the same time he brought over a bitch named Myrtle. The latter was a winner on the bench in England and was reputed to be quite a good rabbit. At all events, her matings with dogs of the Elmore and Rowett strains were productive; among others coming from this combina-

tion being Lady Novice, a good field bitch of more than average quality. Chimer was very successful as a cross with the Rowetts, one of the outstanding products of the union being Spinaway, which Joe Lewis, then a very ardent beagle fancier located in Connecticut, made the most of. Spinaway was the dam of Fashion and Robino II. The latter was said to be a very good field dog, but it is as a bench winner that he became particularly noted. I remember this dog very well after seeing him on the bench a number of times at eastern shows. He was a very richly marked beagle, somewhat long in couplings, but possessing a world of quality in head. Through Robinol II comes the dash of the imported bitch Lonely, which came from England with three of her sons by Ringwood. Lonely was herself a bitch of great quality, though it seems that the long cast type came through her, as nearly all of her progeny of her own and later generations bore this stamp.

Reverting again to the two early dogs, Frank Forest and Bannerman. The former proved to be more popular with eastern breeders and his record as it actually appears on paper is perhaps superior to that of Bannerman, but the latter dog was in reality a great influence, for he crossed well with all the various lines in existence. The bench show breeders would not take to him because he was not marked according to regulation conceptions of color, but he unquestionably imparted qualities that are still to be seen in our present day beagles. Bannerman's sire was Champion Marchboy, considered a

wonderfully prepotent dog and himself a good rabbitier, in fact, far above the ordinary. Marchboy was by Champion Barrister, a ten inch dog which was a remarkable fielder and never beaten on the bench. His dam was Primrose, but it is through Barrister that Bannerman inherits the tendency to reproduce small dogs, for Barrister's sire was none other than the redoubtable Damper, previously referred to as the nine inch dog in the Crane pack. Barrister's dam was Wanderer, also a small bitch and Hotspur and Littly, the sire and dam of Primrose were also of this type. Among other dogs found in the pedigree of Marchboy are Rachel, Matchless, Chancellor, Moorhen, Hopeful, Music, Charmer, Bugler, Skylark, Beauty, Priceless, Joyful and so on ad finitum. Coming to Bannerman's dam, which is Dewdrop, one of the Crane breeding, we find that she is by Damper, out of Pleasant, own sister to Precious, the bitch which won the Crystal Palace Cup and first and cup at Portsmouth. Damper sired among others, Pilgrim, Pealer, Harmony, Rachel and Giant. The latter was considered by "Stonehenge" as the best beagle of his day.

One of the early patrons of field trials was Daniel F. Summers, who bred working beagles in Pennsylvania for a number of years. Nothing was seen of Dan Summers at bench shows, or at least not in the way of showing, but his dogs made records for themselves in the actual competition where the little hound should really show, and that is in the field. Mr. Summers began running dogs in field trials about the year 1896, and was seen regularly for a



dozen or more years, especially at beagle events held in Pennsylvania, Ohio and other surrounding states. No one seems to be able to determine just what lines of blood constitute the Summers' strain, but their influence on the practical beagle has been marvelous and continues to this day.

In Providence, Rhode Island, lives a beagler who has been interested in the breed for years. As a matter of fact, he has been about the most consistent breeder, bench show and field trial patron that is to be found in this country. His name is Thos. W. Shallcross and he is known to all beaglers on this or the other side of the Atlantic. In the early days he imported a number of dogs, among others being Baronet. This dog has had a certain amount of influence on field performers, but it is on the bench where most of them have shown. Baronet, however, was a field trial winner also, and he sired some performers. One of his bench winning sons was Blitz.

In about the year 1896, the late Jas. L. Kernochan began importing beagles on a large scale and for a time it appeared that he would be an important figure at field trials and bench shows with the packs that he brought over. As a matter of fact, he was, but his fancy was but a passing one and before long the many dogs that he imported were scattered about. However, from these kennels came such noted ones as the combination show and field trial beagles, Florist, Oronsay, Matron, Leader III and Trueman, later owned by the Middlesex Beagles. Hector and Flossie went to the Sommersets and

Fiddler to the Round Plains. Then there was Fabian, a champion in the field and a sire of good ones, whose blood is still very prominent in some parts of the East. Florist also ranks very high as a sire and the same may be said of Leader III, Trueman and Oronsay. These dogs were of the typey kind that won on the bench. In the field they held their own, not perhaps in competition with some of the out-and-out field strains, when we consider qualities from every viewpoint, but they were dogs of a good combination type, consequently they had their vogue and were successful. Harry Peters, of Islip, N. Y., was also much interested in beagles about the time that Mr. Kernochan was showing his packs. Among the many importations that he made was the dog Bangle, which became quite popular at bench shows.

A strain of wire-haired beagles was imported into this country along about in 1883, and for about twenty years thereafter were bred by J. W. Appleton, of Ipswich, Mass. Breeders did not take readily to this strain from which emanated both wire and smooth coated dogs, although two good dogs from the strain are still well remembered. One of these was Somerset, owned by the Somerset Beagles, which in the early years of the present century were quite prominent, and the other was Waldingfield's Orator, which was a smooth-coated dog. Dogs from this strain were winners, both on the bench and in the field. This strain was known as the Pulbro Beagles, and their distinguishing quality was their sweet voices. Pulbro Crafty, a

wire-coated dog, much on the type of the Rowett-bred Bowman, except for his coat, was reputed to be an exceptionally good dog, useful in the field and good on the bench. He was not quite such a sturdy dog as the Rowett type, but strong in head, showing very decided hound character, which should have been the best kind of an argument against the charge that there was a dash of terrier in his veins. Crafty, with the exception of his wire coat, was much more of a hound type beagle than many others from the smooth-coated strains.



Hereford's Halo—A. K. C. 303673.

## CHAPTER II

### *Later History*

THE first field trials for beagles in the United States took place in 1890. They were held at Hyannis, Mass., under the auspices of the National Beagle Club, the opening date of the meeting being November 4. There were four starters in the all-age stake for dogs fifteen inches and under. It should be stated here that in nearly all beagle events, especially in the all-age stakes, dogs and bitches are divided, separate stakes being provided for each. The winner of this fifteen inch dog stake was none other Frank Forest, the son of Riot and Skip, of which I have written in the first chapter on early history. In this same stake a son of Rattler III, called Don, was second; while Sunday, another dog previously referred to as the son of Frank Forest and Sue Forest, was third. In the class for bitches fifteen inches and under, Tone, a daughter of Flue M. and Skip, was first; while another of the Frank Forest—Sue Forest litter was second. This was Gypsy Forest. Third was divided among three: one of them was another daughter of Frank Forest, namely, June Rose, out of Juno II. The other two were Belle Ross, by Ross W., out of Cricket and Mollie, by Cornerve, out of Nell. There were eleven starters in this stake. In the class for bitches, thirteen inches and under, Belle Ross was again first; Baby Dean, a daughter of Fitz-Hugh Lee and Belle Dimon,

second; and Banner Queen, by Bannerman, out of Queen, third. It is not my intention to give a full list of field trial winners as this would simply be a record of dry facts, but simply to note the progress of field trials and the corresponding increase in interest in the working beagle, for while perhaps not even a moiety of beagle fanciers are interested directly in either field trials and bench shows, most of them look to these events for the various blood lines to which they breed and regulate their own breeding operations along the lines that produce the winning dogs. Thus, field trials and also bench shows, in a lesser degree, have been essential toward the improvement of the breed.

The National Beagle Club was the only one which held field trials during these early years, or until 1893, when other clubs began to spring into existence. The trials of the National Club, of 1891, brought out more starters, indicating the increased interest. Frank Forest was again well represented among the sires of winners, but other dogs were also in evidence, as for instance, Keno, Victor G, Lee II, Rip Van Winkle, Rattler, Ross W, Royal Krueger, Tony and Mac. In 1892, Frank Forest, Lee, Storm, Stormy, Rattler, Jr., Keno, Burke, and Tony were the sires of the winners. It was at these trials that Clyde, the good son of Frank Forest and Sue Forest, came before the public. In 1893, on October 30, the National Club opened its fourth trials at Nanuet, N. Y., with Jos. Lewis as the only judge. Practically the same sires were represented, with the addition of Chapman's Sam and Tecumseh.

That same year the Northwestern Beagle Club

held its first trials at Whitewater, Wis., with John Davidson as the judge. Here, coming into new territory, new sires were represented, in addition to several that had shown in the East. Spelo, Drummer, Beebe's Doc, Tony Weller and Little Duke were the names of sires that appeared for the first time in field trials. A week after the Northwestern trials, another new club—The New England held its first trials on November 7, at Oxford, Mass. Among the new sires were The Rambler which sired Lady Novice, the winner of the all-age class for bitches under thirteen inches. Frank Forest, Fitz-Hugh Lee, Kenneally's Lee and Keno were still holding their own, however, as sires of winners. Frank Forest was particularly well represented here. In 1894, the New England Club was the first on the program with Frank Forest, Fitz-Hugh Lee, Bannerman and Deacon Tidd accounting for the principal winners. Although several others were represented, as for instance, Chubb, Fifer and Jay. In the National which followed, Dave, Little Wonder, Ned and Roy K were among the new sires. It was in these trials that Frank Forest gained his field championship, although there was but one starter in the stake. In the championship for dogs and bitches under thirteen inches, Laddie, by Royal Krueger, out of Midge, carried away the honor, with three dogs in competition. Following closely upon these eastern events came the trials of the Northwestern club, with a number of new sires showing for the first time; and in 1895, the same club opened the season and again many new western sires made their appearance, among which were,

Krueger's Bob, Bounce, Base, Finder II and others of lesser importance. It was Royal Dick, however, which like Frank Forest, won the championship with himself as the only starter. This dog was by Royal Krueger, out of Baby W, and was owned by G. A. Buckstaff. That same year, in the New England trials, Thos. Shallcross won the fifteen inch derby with Baronet, the son of Daunter and Reckless, referred to in the first chapter.

Buckshot was another sire to show here. Spark R, by Kenneally's Lee, out of Skip, won the all-age under fifteen inches stake; while Lewis, a son of Bannerman, a tan and white dog, out of Parthenia, was second.

Thus the years went on, the National holding trials each season, bringing out new dogs as sires at every annual meeting. Pottinger Dorsey won the all-age stake for fifteen inch dogs in 1896, with Pilot, a son of Chimer and Belle; while at these same trials, D. F. Summers made his appearance for the first time, winning second with a bitch called Lucy S, by Frank, out of Jip, and first in the fifteen inch Futurity class with Belle S, by Clover, out of Lucy S. At the New England trials that same year, Ida Novice, by Clyde, the son of Frank Forest, won the thirteen inch derby for dogs and bitches. The Central Beagle Club inaugurated its trials this year at Waynesburg, Pa. This club is composed mostly of beaglers from the western part of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and has been one of the active clubs ever since its inaugural trials in 1896. The Summers dogs again played an active part among the winners and this season James



McAleer also began to be heard from. Since that time he has been one of the very active participants at all of the principal trials. Summers' Sailor won the Futurity stake of the National trials in 1897. This dog was a son of Sailor and Summers' Fly and became a very important factor in the breeding of working beagles thereafter for he was used by practical breeders.

James McAleer, it may be stated here, secured the blood which D. F. Summers brought before the public and continued along those lines founding a strain called the "Tippecanoe," which became famous in field trials and this blood, even at the present day, is much sought after by beaglers looking for real working types.

In 1900, Mr. Wharton took over the Kernochan Beagles which, under the name of Hempstead Beagles, won considerably at eastern trials and bench shows. I have already made note of some of the dogs and bitches in this pack, but the two most noted stud dogs were imported Bronwydd Boy and imported Florist, the latter being the greater influence upon the field beagles of the East. As they were offered at stud at the high fee of \$100 each, which for a beagle is all out of proportion in comparison with other noted dogs of the breed, it may be taken for granted that the small breeders found it practically impossible to avail themselves of the services of these two dogs.

Among other high priced stud dogs were those of the Windholme Beagles, owned by H. L. Peters, whose (bench) Champion Windholme's Robino II and (bench) Champion Windholme's Robino III,

brought fees of \$100 and \$50, respectively. These were patronized mostly by breeders of bench dogs, however.

Field trials began to get more numerous from year to year and beagle fanciers did not find it such a difficult matter to start dogs in field competition, for in nearly every locality a club was eventually organized and by the time of the late World War the beagle field trial game was at its height. There was a temporary slump during the war, but immediately after that the interest in the breed became greater than ever. Ohio alone holds three or four fall trials each year and the same prevails in practically all of the eastern and middle states.

It was in 1899 that the Waldingfield Beagles won with Orator, one of the dogs of the wire-haired strain, to which reference was made in the previous chapter. The sire and dam of Orator were Pulboro Crafty and Cinderella. Crafty was not used at stud to the extent that his merits warranted, otherwise he might have had a number of winners fully as good as Orator to his credit.

No doubt, while the interest in beagles has been constantly growing, the greatest activities took place from 1919 to 1922, and the season of 1923 is now coming on apace as I write. Beaglers have sprung up every where. Many swear by their own strains, though they are not averse to trying new blood when they are shown that such a new cross will be of benefit.

Looking over the record of 1921 for instance, we find something like twenty clubs holding trials and while I have not scrutinized the list of winners

carefully, it is quite likely that the season of 1922 was larger than that. This is conclusive proof that the beagle interest is forever growing, though I am firmly convinced that the field trial end of the game would advance far more rapidly and with less unnecessary red tape if the clubs would organize into a national association of some kind, independent of the ruling of bench show associations and concentrate their interests upon the field beagle, with a view also of preserving type, by holding bench shows in connection with the trial meeting. Shows, of course, are being held in connection with field trials, but under the present system of restrictions, due to being ruled by interests entirely foreign to the sport of field trials, they can never become the great institution that they are in bird dog circles. There should be a national governing body, unquestionably, but this should be conducted by a class of men directly interested in the line of sport that is being catered to and not by an office force in a large city that is not in the least conversant with the practical side of the beagle or bird dog interests.

Looking over the noted dogs that have been an influence on the breed since the days of imported Minstrel, imported Foreman, Champion Bannerman, Lee II, Colonel Lee, and double champion Frank Forest, there comes a vast array of names. To mention them in detail would be to fill a book in itself, but since 1898, for instance, we must not forget Champion Dorsey's Pilot, owned by H. L. Krueder, of Nanuet, New York, who also owned Frank Forest in later days. Summers' Sailor is

another dog very highly valued by the field men, though I doubt if any of the breeders for bench types ever took advantage of his services. Champion Ringleader, owned by Jos. Lewis, then of Modus, Connecticut, was a bench show type. The same may be said of imported Bronwydd Boy and imported Florist, of which mention was made as being the two hounds which were offered at stud by their owner, J. L. Kernochan at a fee of \$100 each. Robino II and Robino III were bench dogs pure and simple.

During the early years of the present century that grand little dog, Hempfield's Little Dandy, owned by J. S. Cusson and R. B. Cole, of De Kalb, Illinois, was a very prominent winner and he soon became a most marvelous sire of field dogs. His services were sought by breeders from everywhere and he sired winner after winner and yet his owners offered him for the benefit of brother sportsmen at the remarkably low fee of \$10. In this connection I might observe that many of the beagle fanciers—those who really had the interests of the breed at heart—never placed an exorbitant fee upon their dogs. Louis Steffen, for instance, located in Milwaukee, Wis., who has been one of the most consistent of breeders, offered that good dog, Colonel Lee, at a \$5 stud fee.

Another hound which proved to be a tremendous influence upon the field bred beagle was Young Tippecanoe, a contemporary of Hempfield's Little Dandy, owned by James McAleer, of Bellevue, Pa. Mr. McAleer still has this blood in his kennels and is breeding successfully from it through generation

after generation, but as a matter of fact, beaglers from all parts of the country value it just as highly. Mr. McAleer offered the services of this dog at the low fee of fifteen dollars, which made him available to all.

Coming some years later, was Afton's Uncle Sam, a dog which proved to be a consistent winner that soon gained championship honors afield. His owner was P. A. Peterson, owner of the Afton Kennels, and in this prepotent little hound he has a marvelous producer. Uncle Sam is probably the greatest sire of winners of all time. Like Mr. McAleer, Mr. Peterson offered this dog at a fee of \$15. Red Sox was another McAleer dog; coming before the public about the same time as Uncle Sam, that is, between the years of 1914 and 1920.

Alibi Billy, owned by W. A. Powell, of Taylorville, Illinois, has of late years been a most successful sire. One nick, that with Bright Eyes, proving to be particularly productive of good results, but Billy was a success with practically every line of blood to which he was mated. His fee was also \$15.

Champion Charmion Ben, owned by the Charmion kennels, of which Fred Horn was the owner, and George Flammer, the manager, gained his title on the bench and in the field and in this connection it might not be out of place to state that this dog and Frank Forest are the only two beagles which gained double championship honors; that is, in the field and on the bench. The Charmion Kennels up until quite recently, operated in New Jersey, and

Ben was used at stud very extensively, becoming a very successful sire of field and bench dogs.

Stoke Place Sapper was a bench show winner, but proved to be an excellent sire of field dogs. In recent years he was owned by Victor Wiley, of Allenville, Ill. Many of his get were seen in field trials, but many more are winners on the bench.

P. M. Chidester, of Pittsburgh, Pa., is a comparatively new comer in beagle realms, but he has erected kennels and has gathered together some of the best dogs of the country. Only a few years ago he bought practically all the dogs of the Wheatley kennels, which were disbanded at that time. One of the dogs he purchased just before the kennels were discontinued was Wheatley Truant, which was offered at stud at the fee of \$30 and business flocked his way. As a sire of field performers he has not yet shown results to the extent of some of the hounds mentioned, but he surely is the kind of a dog to impart type. I saw this dog the first time in 1920, when I judged sporting dogs at Detroit. The beagles classes were large ones, but there was no mistaking the quality of Truant the moment one saw him, for there is a wealth of character about him that is compelling. I gave this dog winners and special for best beagle in the show. He soon gained championship honors on the bench.

In bench show realms beagle interests held their own during all these years while the merry little hound was gaining so rapidly in favor with field men and there were and still are a number of kennels, especially in the East, that breed dogs almost solely for show purposes.

The Windholme Beagles were successful during the early years of the present century, but short-lived. The Belrays, coming some years later, were also quite a formidable aggregation, not only on the bench, but at field trials; and about this same period the Wheatleys came to the front and continued showing until about 1819 when the manager, Arthur Little, was compelled to relinquish his position on account of ill-health, after which as I previously stated, the dogs were scattered, most of them going to P. M. Chidester, of Pittsburgh, whose Pencraft Beagles were already gaining a reputation. Stoke Place Sapper was one of the importations of the Wheatley Kennels, but found a new home in Illinois, where he did well. During part of the last decade the Mt. Brilliant Beagles, owned by Louis Lee Haggin, of Lexington, Ky., were prominent, but Mr. Haggin became interested in field trial pointers about this time and abandoned beagles after a short period of success.

Looking over the lists of kennels showing beagles in the East (some of which also ran their dogs in field trials), one finds that many of the fanciers who took up the breed were only in it as a passing hobby, as many of these wealthy young men with nothing else on their hands, frequently take up fads, hence with the exception of a very few, little in the way of lasting good was accomplished by them in the way of breeding. Since the beginning of this century more than a dozen well known beagle kennels have been disbanded. Perhaps the fact that America entered into the World War has some bearing on the case, but I am more inclined to

think that it was a general lack of an abiding love for the breed on the part of the fanciers that is the real cause.

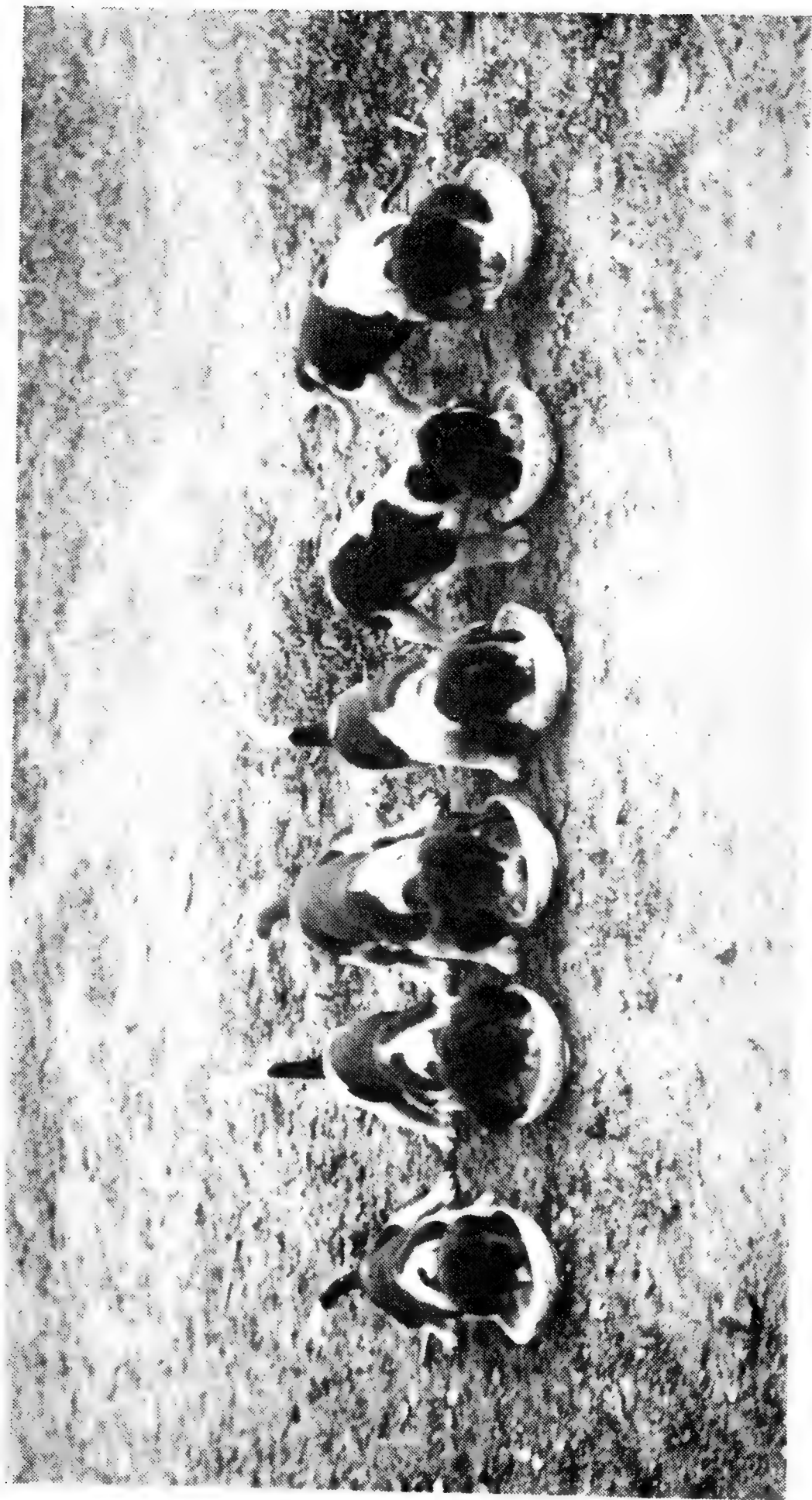
Beginning with the Hempstead Beagles, which were owned by J. L. Kernochan, one well known pack after the other passed out of existence, and among these are the Round Plain, the Thornfield, the Rockridge, Dungannon, Somerset, Wolver, Piedmont, Sir Sister, Belray, Old Westbury, Ragdale, Fairfield, Mt. Brilliant and Windholme. Those that are still active in the East are the Waldingfield, Vernon Place, White Oak, Reynal, Awixa and Fanall Beagles, and it is a pleasure to note that all of these take an interest in field trials as well as bench shows, which indicates that the beagle, like the bird dog is no longer considered only a toy, but a real sportsman's dog.

This fact comes in evidence also, by reason of the many field trial clubs that are being formed and the number of sportsmen who are taking up the merry little hound; hence, while the loss in one direction is a large one, in the other it is a gain in still greater proportions. The middle and western states are in reality the ones showing the most rapid growth. The old Central Beagle club, with headquarters at Pittsburgh, has been one of steady growth; and then over in Ohio the Buckeye, the Northern Ohio, and the Highland Beagle clubs, together with several smaller ones, keep the many new fanciers of the beagle well occupied. To enumerate all the clubs that have sprung up everywhere would require a long list, suffice it to say that beagle fanciers need not feel alarmed that



because some of the packs owned by eastern fanciers have gone out of existence, the breed is going to suffer. On the other hand, it is not this class that has done the real breeding, but the smaller men who, while not possessing the means that were at the command of the large kennels, are in reality doing the kind of breeding that brings results.

Indiana also has a number of good clubs, with a membership of real breeders, and the same may be said of the Western organization, which is as important in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and adjoining states, as the National is in the East. As a matter of fact, it is from the breeders who are members of the Western club that some of the greatest activities for the improvement of the breed have emanated. Most of these clubs hold bench shows at the time of their trials which is a most salutary feature, for they give the novice attending trials for the first time, not only an idea of a dog's work in the field, but a fair knowledge of the type that is demanded to win on the bench and like with the bird dogs; the time has evidently come when there may be a merging of the two types, thus the millenium for the beagle seems to be at hand, for practical beagle fanciers, like the bird dog fanciers, have come to realize that a working beagle can also be a good looking one.



Litter of Beagle Pups by Tony B. out of Latonia Gyp.

### CHAPTER III

#### *Suggestion for Beginners—A Rabbit Hunt With Beagles*

THIS chapter is intended for the beginner; he who feels the love of the chase deep down in his consciousness and who enjoys the form of sport in which dogs participate. The novice to whom I am addressing these lines has probably been on a rabbit hunt or two, has seen dogs work, perhaps, though the knowledge thus acquired of the real qualities of the different kinds of rabbit dogs may be very limited. But his ambition to own real, rabbit hounds has been kindled and he has resolved to become the owner of one of a pair of dogs. Perhaps he may have a friend who is interested in rabbit hunting and from him gain the rudimentary knowledge. As like as not his information may come from an interested source and thus his first venture in the ownership of dogs may go wrong. In this connection a case came to me recently. The writer, a lad of about seventeen, wrote as follows: "I always like rabbit hunting and last winter I went out several times. The man who hunted with me had two dogs that he called 'beadles.' They were black and tan and stood about twenty-six inches high. I want to get some good rabbit hounds, but I have been told since, that this man with whom I hunted had plain ordinary 'pot licker' hounds with no breeding and that no beagle (I heard the correct

name later) ever got to be twenty-six inches tall. Will you tell me something about the breed and the best kind to get for real rabbit work?"

The experienced beaglers, those who have been breeding or hunting with the little hounds all their lives, are advised to pass this, and probably two or three other chapters by, for they are designed and written for just such young aspirants as the writer of the foregoing letter. In the first place, to those who would enjoy the best side of beagling and obtain to the fullest all the pleasure that is to be had out of owning and hunting these little hounds, I would say obtain all the knowledge about them that you can possibly absorb; written, verbal and otherwise. Subscribe to sportsmen's journals catering to this class of out door pastime and buy some good books that will enlighten you on the standard and show illustrations of various types. Go to a few field trials; it will be time well spent, not only in the knowledge that may be gained from watching the dogs work, but in the enjoyment that will be found in the recreation. "Listen in" when you hear the old-timers talk about the various strains, their characteristics and what their pedigrees represent. Make copious notes of what you see and hear. Then go home, read the reports of the trials that you saw and compare them with your notes. That is the way you may examine yourself in order to ascertain whether or not your own deductions are correct or false. Note carefully the strains of dogs that are winning. Note the sizes, whether they are fifteen inch beagles or under thirteen inches and do not lose sight of the fact that

no beagle measuring more than fifteen inches at the shoulder is recognized. A quarter of an inch over this size will throw them out of competition, whether it be at field trials or bench shows.

That brings to mind another little experience that came to me at first hand. In this instance, the principal in the case was a beagler; that is, he had hunted beagles for a number of years and he knew rabbit dogs, but it was a matter of indifference to him whether his dogs measured fifteen inches or an inch or two over the limit. One fine autumn day, however, he attended a field trial. He became interested in the sport and followed every heat closely. Before the end of the week he decided that he would have a beagle or two to run in field trials, for as matters stand at the present time, one need not go far to participate in one or more trials every season, no matter where one might live, for broadly speaking, we have them at our very doors since the beagle has come into such popularity of late years. This man went home and began corresponding with beaglers in various parts of the country. Before another fortnight elapsed, he had two beagles "fit to run in any field trials," as the seller described them, and as the kennel from which he purchased was supposedly a reputable one, the deal had been quickly closed. I saw these two dogs a week or ten days after the new purchaser acquired them. They were indeed good hunting dogs, but without measuring they looked rather large. The new owner when asked, said he did not pin the seller down to exact measurements, but was told that they would run in the stake for "the large dogs." Lo

and behold, when the new owner went to his first trial both of his dogs were measured out! One of them stood sixteen inches at the shoulder and the other came very near to the seventeen inch mark. The previous owner disposed of the two dogs because they were too large for field trials and used this sharp method of disposing of them to a novice. The latter could have gotten his money back, no doubt, but since the dogs were both exceptionally good in the field he kept them and had many seasons of excellent sport hunting rabbits with them. As a matter of fact, I hunted over them myself on frequent occasions and never saw a better pair of rabbit dogs than these two over size, but typey beagles from Pennsylvania.

When it comes to this question of size, the beginner, who is buying with the view of showing or running his dogs, must be very careful, but if he is buying for hunting purposes alone, then he need not draw the line so closely, for sometimes even a sixteen inch, well bred dog, that is a good individual in the field is a better one to breed to than a smaller individual with less quality, and when such are bred to small bitches or those coming from strains known to produce small ones, it is as like as not that most, if not all of this over-sized dog's puppies will come within the prescribed bounds.

It should be remembered also, that many a dog which goes a trifle below the fifteen inch mark at a year or even a year-and-a-half old, will fill out by the time he is three years of age and sometimes then measure above the prescribed limit, hence it is not always the breeder who is at fault. He may

sell puppies at a year old that are from small sires and dams and be perfectly honest when he gives the buyer the measurements of the dog and those of his sire and dam. Some breeders make a practice of underfeeding their puppies when they come from strains known to develop too rapidly, or are likely to go oversize occasionally. But this always seemed a doubtful mode of procedure to me, when it is a plain case of starvation, but food values may be studied to good advantage and thus the ration may be so arranged that it will impart the nutritive qualities that make for wholesome development and still not impart to the puppy an unnatural or abnormal growth.

In buying a beagle the beginner should keep in mind what he intends to use him for and thus be governed in making his selection. If he wishes to take up the show game exclusively, then perhaps it might be well to confine his investigations to that branch, for there is no gainsaying the fact that there are some strains—beautiful and typey dogs—that are good for nothing else but the show bench, just as this same statement applies to setters, pointers and Airedales. Only a study of bench show records and the frequent attendance at shows will give the novice this knowledge at first hand. If he is buying for field trials, let him scan the records closely and see that he is buying stock from reputable hunting and winning strains.

While gunshyness is not inherited in the real sense, still there are many strains of nervous high strung beagles in which this serious fault may be developed by the slightest false move, which with

more careful handling might have been obviated and the dog made familiar with the gun without serious consequences, but here again many, even experienced men, are at fault. Introduce the gun gradually when training puppies and never fire unless the dog's attention is occupied and when he is some distance away. One shot at the wrong moment sometimes will ruin a dog for life. If the buyer is selecting a broken dog for gunning purposes he must make certain before deciding on his purchase whether or not the animal is gun proof. It is quite true many a beagler enjoys the sport of rabbit hunting without the gun more than he does with it and many a fancier goes out with his pack or brace for the pure exhilaration of seeing his dogs work and listening to the melodies of their blended voices. Once in a while the hounds score a kill, but one cotton tail brought to bag by means of the clever work of the hounds is worth more to these esthetic sportsmen than a score that might be shot in front of them. Nevertheless, whether the hunt is conducted one way or the other, there is a satisfaction in knowing that the dogs one owns are fearless and that they will stand gun fire if the occasion arises.

As regards the weight of beagles, this of course is correlated with size. Beaglers have always differed on this point and as far back as the early nineties numerous discussions have been waged through the sportsmen's press on this subject in connection with size, though after it was once finally determined that no regulation beagle could go over fifteen inches, that part of the controversy naturally died



out. Weight, however, was still a mooted question and it will probably ever remain so.

The sum and substance of the discussions seem to lead to the conclusion that dogs thirteen inches and under should weigh between fourteen and sixteen pounds and fifteen inch dogs from seventeen to twenty. George F. Reed, a well known New England beagler of twenty years ago, advocated hounds measuring from fourteen to fourteen and a half inches at shoulder and weighing from twenty-one to twenty-four pounds. This size and weight, he maintained, was the logical one for all-round all day hunters. In field trials, where short heats are the vogue and speed is the leading element in winning stakes, the smaller beagle is probably advantageous, but for long heats or for all day hunting the larger dog was conceded to be the better. F. H. Chapman, another beagler of those days, even went so far as to advocate a weight of from twenty-two to twenty-seven pounds, for an all-round utility beagle. The records of these early controversialists show that good work had been done by beagles of twelve pounds, measuring eleven inches at shoulder, but such cases seemed to be exceptions. In summing up, it might be observed that for all-round uses a good big one will always prove more satisfactory than a good little one and that, I believe, will be borne out by the experience of most beaglers. After all is said, however, one must look for the dog with the right temperamental qualities. A courageous hound, possessing correct conformation and the heart, will do more and better

work running on three legs than the coward with five legs.

For the beginner, looking for an all-round utility dog, I should advocate a hound from fourteen to fifteen inches. This kind of a dog will do the work in rough country, on good days and bad, and he will be able to hunt day after day, where the hills are rough, the cover is heavy and the briars are close.

Another quality a good beagle should possess, and which is frequently overlooked by the beginner, is voice. Naturally, many who hunt for the mere sake of the game bag do not take these more esthetic points into consideration, but the true beagle fancier, the one who remains in the game year after year soon becomes more choicé in his requirements in proportion as his love increases for his favorite breed of dog. Thus, the beginner, satisfied with any kind of a dog that will run rabbits, in time seeks for the finer, or as some call them, non-essential qualities. Personally, I always felt that the voice of the hound or the harmony of the pack should be the most important feature. All of our old writers tell us that the beagle has the sweetest tongue of any of the hound family, but of late years, we cannot put all of our beagles in that class. Speed has had something to do with loss of voice, perhaps, for in the effort to breed sprinters the voice has departed with some of the other hound properties, and how often do we not find an array of squealers and screamers at a field trial! A writer of some years ago expressed it in proper terms when he said: "If Shakespeare had attended a field trial and heard a couple of such flyers in full cry, screech-

ing like fox terriers after a neighbor's cat, he probably would not have written of 'voices matched like bells'." And yet that is the way it should be; the voices of a pack of beagles in full cry should be as harmonious as a well drilled orchestra. Nevertheless, we do hear melodious voices now and then, and it is because we know that they do exist that the desire is expressed for more of them. Select your beagle for his hunting qualities, but if you want real pleasure afield, see that he has a voice that will be music among the hills.

The pair of over-sized beagles that I alluded to earlier in this chapter, were fortunately the possessors of exceedingly musical and well matched voices and I believe it was mainly because of this that the purchaser kept them, despite the fact that they were too large for field trial or bench show competition. Perhaps I might say overweight also, for the dog, whose kennel name was Bill, weighed close to twenty-six pounds; while Belle, the bitch, tipped the scales at twenty-four.

How well I recall a frosty morning in October, many years ago! In those days the season opened earlier than it does now and this new owner of the over-sized beagles wanted me to see them in action. All was agreed the previous night and just before daylight, on a beautiful autumnal day, he came after me, stopping at the house with the old sorrel mare hitched to a box buggy (there were no automobiles those days), and the two beagles stowed away comfortably on a pallet of straw in the bed of the vehicle. It was cool and crisp, but there was no frost, and a slight humidity in the atmosphere

betokened a change of weather. However, when we arrived at our destination, several miles out of the city, the sun arose in a bank of crimson clouds and a good day, such as those drowsy, droning Indian Summer days are in mid-October, was before us in the making. The old farm where we went was full of cotton tails and Charlie, the new owner of the over-sized beagles, determined to give his dogs a thorough trial "under judgment" as he laughingly explained. Old man Smith, the owner of the farm, came out to meet us as we drove into the barn yard. "Put your horse right there in one of the empty stalls and then go down to the berry patch back by the creek and kill as many as you can. There are millions o' rabbits around here and I want to get shed of them, 'cause they're eatin' up all my young fruit trees."

We assured him that we would try to account for at least a small fraction of the million, and as we were assembling our guns he added: "And when you hear the dinner bell, be sure to come up to the house and get some warm victuals; you'll both need a good hot dinner after your morning's work."

We thanked him for the invitation and assured him that we would not overlook the bell. Down the lane we trudged and all this while Charlie kept his two dogs at heel, for they were really well broken beagles with all the accomplishments in the way of training that most bird dogs possess. The berry patch was several acres in extent, rising over a series of little hills and winding down through narrow hollows until the patch came to an abrupt end along the edge of a little rock-bound creek. Just

to the left was an open woods, with piles of brush here and there and a fallen log to vary the scene, and add to the picturesqueness of the setting. At the farther end of the woods an old worm fence zig-zagged down to the creek and crossed it at a narrow point, leaving sufficient space for the water to run underneath, then it continued on and encircled a corn field on the far side. A more perfect setting for Molly Cotton-tail could not have been conceived and we did not wonder at Farmer Smith's statement that there were "millions of 'em."

Charlie clucked to the dogs as we came to the edge of the patch and waved his arm in that direction. "Hunt 'em up!" he said in a low voice and both dogs were off. It is not often one finds beagles under such good command, but these two gave me a good opportunity to note how much can be done in the way of educating a rabbit dog in what is generally known as "yard breaking," if one sets out to do it. Some beaglers advocate no breaking at all, but simply to allow the dogs their natural way, but when it comes to a day's gunning, how much more satisfactory it is to hunt with beagles that are under good command!

"We might as well go an' find some good places for stands," suggested my companion; "those dogs'll do their own starting, we don't have to do it for 'em." Both dogs disappeared in the briars by this time, but every now and then we had glimpses of them as they wound in and out among the vines. "Belle's a better starter than Bill," continued Charlie, "but Bill's no slouch."

Presently we heard a short, sharp yap; one of

uncertainty it seemed, for neither of the dogs was inclined to babble without cause. A moment later Belle broke out with a series of musical notes, which deepened as she became more sure, then suddenly it was a jumble of long drawn out musical sound.

"Hark Bill, hark!" cried Charlie, but there was no need of the command, for Bill's deep, rumbling voice soon joined in with that of his mate. Belle's notes were deep, but clear and bell like, a real mezzo soprano, while Bill's voice was baritone, and such music, as they drove through the briars! Both of us instinctively ran in different directions looking for a vantage point; as yet, neither had seen the rabbit or the dogs, but Charlie gave me the cue about the voices and I had no trouble in distinguishing between them. The dogs drove deeper into the briars, their voices sounding through those open spaces with a clarity that only such settings can supply. Down through the briars they came and what a medley of music! Suddenly there was a silence. Charlie, on a stump some rods from me, cried out: "They lost him!" but he had scarcely made the remark when the sonorous voice of Bill broke the silence and a moment later Belle harked in; again there was sweet music in the air and a moment later I saw bunny come out of the briars, within twenty feet of me, and go bounding down along the edge through the open woods.

"Why don't you shoot?" yelled Charlie, but I was intent upon watching the race and forgot all about the gun. Anyway, I would rather see a good race than kill the game in front of the dogs and so I told Charlie, but just as the dogs came speeding

out on the hot trail the rabbit made a turn, passed Charlie some ten rods farther down and he let go. The bunny was tumbled over, the dogs were up almost at the same time and the race was over.

"You had the best chance of your life to kill," said Charlie half apologetically as we stood there, while he allowed the dogs to mouth their prey.

"I know I did, but it was a shame to kill that rabbit when it promised to be such a good drive," I replied. "He's a fine, big one, too; he might have given us a long run."

Charlie, always a gunner, could not see my viewpoint; he believed in bagging the quarry when the opportunity offered, and so he placed the rabbit in his bag and started the dogs off once more.

In less than a minute Bill started one along the edge of the thicket, but this proved to be a little insignificant "twister" that would not run. He started down the woods, turned into the briers where we could see him squat. Both dogs were checked several times and then to get the dogs off, Charlie gave him his left barrel as he started out of the thicket down toward the creek.

The next work produced some quick action; both dogs started rabbits almost simultaneously, Belle brought one down in a furious line drive through the woods, where Bunny turned and practically double-tracked in front of me; while Bill had one going on Charlie's side. This promised to be two races at the same time and we did not want that, so both of us killed in short order.

Once more the dogs were sent on. They went down the outer edge of the briar patch this time

and came out in the woods, when they began nosing about a brush pile within twenty yards of where I had taken my stand on a fallen log. Suddenly Belle gave one loud screech as a big buck rabbit jumped out on the other side of the pile. Bill saw him and opened up also, and a sight chase down through the wood ensued. What a chattering! What a clamor of voices! Belle's rich notes went well with the deep tones of Bill, and down the woods they came with Bunny not thirty yards ahead. It was too fast for him and he took refuge in another brush pile, but here Charlie and I intervened. The dogs were becoming too excited. Charlie caught and held them, and after a short interval, as Charlie kept the dogs away so they could not see what was transpiring, I routed Bunny out. When he was well on the way, going lipperty-lip down through the woods, Charlie put them on the line. Both struck simultaneously, and what a drive they gave us! On they went, "Yow, yow, yow!" intermingled with the sonorous "Oow, oow, oow!" until it seemed that the notes fairly tumbled over each other in finding expression. Belle had the lead at times, but Bill frequently picked the checks, and as they went on through the woods, down around the briar patch, along the edge of the creek and back again into the woods it was give-and-take. Once there was a long check, but Belle picked it this time and went flying through the timber over toward the snake fence. Here both Charlie and I changed our positions and stood on a fallen log near the fence, down by the creek. We had seen much of the rabbit during this running, for he seemed to have a world



of confidence in himself and was evidently playing with the dogs. He came down along the fence line and squatted within thirty yards of us while the dogs were puzzling over the scent farther over in the woods, but he had only a brief respite. Belle picked the line and Bill harked in. Down they came with a speed that did one's heart good. Bunny left his squat and circled back to the briars, but still in plain sight of us. Charlie raised his gun and was about to shoot, but I knocked his arm down. "Let them run it out!" I advised, and the gun was lowered. Bunny hopped along leisurely, evidently satisfied that he could outwit his pursuers. But the dogs were coming fast and as we had both seen the rabbit all this while we knew they were straddling the line every moment. Bunny heard the dogs and perhaps thought better of his first decision, for he put on speed and raced down through the woods jumping on a log and running the length of this, then he squatted in some weeds just beyond. Again we had a good view and again Charlie was tempted to shoot, but I restrained him. "Let him alone," I cautioned, "it is not often you see a race like this."

Bunny remained in his squat until the dogs came to the log and were baffled, but Bill jumped on the log and consequently right on the line and again they were off. This time Bunny was obliged to run for his life and he went flying down through the woods, back to the worm fence, along which he ran until he came to the creek, where he squatted again, but only for a moment, and then he did a trick which I had never seen before and only once since. He jumped onto the lower rail of the fence where it

crossed the creek, thus he got over the water and into the cornfield beyond. It was while attending the Buckeye Beagle trials, in 1921, that a number of us saw a similar performance during the running of an exciting heat. We often hear the expression, "about as much brains as a rabbit," but if this is not exercising extraordinary intelligence, I would not know what it might be called. Both dogs came down the fence line at a furious gait and when they arrived at the fence, down by the water's edge, they were both baffled. We waited, for we wished to see if they could puzzle it out by themselves. They went up and down the fence line, Belle making wide circling casts and Bill was doing likewise. They were clearly at sea, but they did not give up. Then, perhaps it was luck or intuition, Bill jumped the creek and began searching on the other side. Suddenly he opened with a long, loud bawl. Belle almost literally leaped from the top of the hill to the other side of the creek in her anxiety to join her mate. Bill picked the trail and while this drive was not so fast, and little of it was in sight, we had the full benefit of the music. Once Belle's voice rose above Bill's and then the latter took the initiative. On several occasions there was silence as the dogs came to a check, but we could hear the voices as they picked the line and thus we were enabled to follow the drive even though we remained on our side of the creek.

"Let's wait right here," I suggested, and Charlie acquiesced, for he knew Bunny would double back to almost the same place and perhaps repeat his performance of crossing the creek on the fence rail.

Our surmises were correct; bunny came out of the corn and slipped along the edge of it on the farther side of the creek, but whether he saw us or decided on another plan I do not know. At all events, he went on down the creek bank, squatting in grass, for a moment, but it was a brief moment, for the dogs came bounding out in the open and the rabbit was obliged to move. Charlie could stand it no longer. The rabbit was going down the edge of the creek when he let him have a shot and thus bowled him over. "I had to do it," he explained, apologetically. "The dogs have been running that one bunny nearly three quarters of an hour." He had not exaggerated in the least, but nevertheless, I should have enjoyed seeing a finish race and I verily believe these two little hounds would have run this big buck rabbit to a kill.

We had many more exciting races after that and the game bag was filled long before noon, for while Charlie is a field shooter, he is not entirely a meat hunter. We remained for the "hot victuals" at farmer Smith's and then drove home in the hazy sunlight of a beautiful Indian Summer afternoon. Charlie's beagles were over size for field trials or show purposes; but he never regretted buying them. They were as good as any I have ever seen for all-round working dogs.



The Beagle, Rockywood Trusty—The Real Hound Type.

## CHAPTER IV

### *Home Training for the Shooting Beagle*

WHILE frequent opinions are expressed to the contrary, the beagle which gives the most satisfaction on the hunting field is the one which is broken to obey the ordinary commands that any well behaved dog, be he pointer, setter, Airedale or hound, is expected to understand. The beginner may easily teach these accomplishments, if he begins properly, and uses judgment and a level head, for it is not such a great trick to train your dog, provided you are temperamentally fitted for it.

Some are under the impression that no training is necessary other than doing the actual work in the field, but a beagle should know when to come when called, he should remain at heel when told to do so, and he should be taught to "stay put" when traveling back and forth to the field in a vehicle or automobile; provided he is not shut up in his crate, and a well trained beagle, one that is made the companion of his master, needs no crate to take him to and from the hunting grounds, nor even a lead to hold him in check. The fact that your beagle has been educated in these finer points need not deter you from entering him in field trials, assuming he has the other qualities.

There was a time when we saw little training among pointers and setters at field trials, but of late years handlers have discovered that they get much farther by breaking their dogs; and in thus finishing

their education nothing need be taken out of them. Mary Montrose, the triple National field trial champion, was so well broken that her handler needed no lead on her to hold her in check before starting in a heat. The same may be said of Comanche Rap and Becky Broomhill, the latter at less than five years old, a two time winner of the National Championship.

When Jos. Crane starts Comanche Rap he takes him out of the vehicle, drops him to the ground, mounts his horse and goes to the front, with the dog at his heels. Reaching his place of starting, Crane sends the dog out in front and stops him. When the other dog is ready, Crane simply says "allright," and away the dog goes. Chesley Harris handles Becky Broomhill in like manner. Often I have seen him come out in front of the crowd of horsemen, Becky remaining at his side until told to get out in front; and I have seen her stand out before that crowd of riders sometimes five or ten minutes, waiting for the other handler to get ready, without even making a slight attempt to move, but as soon as Harris gave the command, "Get away, girl!" she was off. Ten years ago they called these accomplishments overbreaking, and some shook their heads dolefully, hinting that it takes something out of the dogs. If it makes triple and double championship winners, then it might be well to take "something out" of a few more.

It is the same with a beagle; break him to understand and obey commands and you will have the greatest satisfaction out of him. By this, it is not meant that he should be broken to leave a hot trail

when called; as a matter of fact, the beagle that did this would have little room in my kennel, nor would a setter or pointer gain much praise from me if he obeyed the first call and left his point. The beagler should never attempt to call his dog off a hot trail, but he should break him so that he will come to him under other circumstances. For instance, it is the close of the day and you wish to go home. You call your dog; instead of coming, he gives an extra swish of his tail and disappears in the woods, not on the trail of a rabbit, but simply brushing around indifferent to your commands. You may have ten minutes to catch a train, but this lack of obedience may cause you to walk home.

A good beagle should be under perfect control at all times, except when he is on the hot trail of game and then he should be left alone, or caught up if the drive is too long. He should be a good starter, needing little or no help from his master; a wide enough caster, thus making the opportunities for picking up trails, and he should show intelligence in looking for the best country to find game. He need not be a quarterer, like the old time pointer or setter, but he should understand how to hunt out the most likely territory of his own volition, and if the dog is made of the right material and has not been spoiled in the making, he will be all of that. Furthermore, he should be a good, steady driver, a stayer and a level-headed dog. If he possesses a good voice in addition, then he is practically a perfect gun dog. Much of this can be taught the dog, if he has had the right kind of yard training and he comes from stock that is amenable to educa-

tion. In this connection I might observe that there are many dogs which never can be trained. Some are natural fools, others have no brains and still others are inherently lazy and never will take to hunting. If the beginner has been so unfortunate as to secure one of these varieties as his first venture, the best plan is to make away with him and charge it to profit and loss. If, however, he studies the various strains and blood lines, he is not so apt to go far wrong. Pedigree counts for much in all domestic animals, but pedigree alone does not make the dog. It is the combination of individuals in the ancestry that counts. A pedigree might have half a dozen bench and field champions in the tabulation and still the individual it represents can be worthless. Rather select a dog from a line of level-headed working dogs than a combination of champions with a lot of worthless dogs in the background. What I mean is this: Many a time an owner of an inferior bitch breeds to a champion and finds a ready sale for the puppies because of this champion, while on the other hand, breeders of real field dogs go on breeding from generation to generation of real working dogs and the result is that the progeny of such strains is practically always good. Select a dog with a pedigree, but try to find out something about the names that this long sheet of paper contains.

The age to buy a puppy depends upon the wishes of the purchaser. It is interesting to secure a puppy of ten or twelve weeks and watch him grow and develop, but the novice must take into consideration that so young a dog is more susceptible to the usual



ills of puppyhood than an older one. Real field training cannot begin before the puppy is at least eight months old, and in many cases a year is better. Some beagles develop earlier than that—as early as six months—but it should be remembered that it is not always the precocious boy that finishes into the most brilliant man and the same applies to beagles.

### ***House Breaking***

In the event that the beginner buys his dog at a very young age, he should proceed at once to take full charge of him. Let the puppy understand that he has a master and one of the first things to do is to teach him manners in the house, and also his name. While it is not advisable to keep the puppy in the house it is always well to have him house-broken, for there may be occasions when it is necessary to allow him to spend the night indoors. All dogs are cleanly by nature, but when very young they should be taught which places must be respected more than others. Watch him carefully for a few days or a week and at the slightest suspicion, put him out of doors. If ever caught in the act (and that is the quickest way to break him), scold him and put him out. Sometimes it is well to call him up to the place where the flagrant act was committed, scold him roundly, slap him lightly and put him out. He will soon learn that the house is a place sacred to his master and that any errors committed there will separate him from him. Watchfulness and even temper on the part of the master will go far; and right here it might be well to state that no one should attempt to train a dog of any

kind if he cannot control his temper. Another caution that fits well at this juncture is to never use a whip either for house, yard or field breaking. The beagle is an understanding, but at the same time sensitive little animal, and one ill tempered moment on the part of the trainer, during which the puppy is abused, might spoil him forever.

### *Coming at Command*

The best place to teach the puppy his early lessons is in a yard or large room, free from objects that are likely to distract, and above all, do not have other persons or dogs about. Decide upon a name for your puppy and every time you call him use this name, but never vary it. Most puppies, being unused to the rebuffs of the world are entirely without guile and will come to most anyone when their attention is attracted. Call the pupil by name and when he comes to you, pat him and give him a nice choice morsel to eat; then play with him a few moments, interlarding the name with your fondling, and thus make him feel that he has done a splendid thing by coming to you. Naturally, he will associate all this with the choice morsel that he receives and it will not be many days before he will come bounding to you when he hears his name mentioned.

At this period he may also be taught to lead. Put a collar on him the first day and allow it to remain, in order to accustom him to such a contrivance. The second day attach the lead to the collar, do not pull or jerk him violently, but call him by name and when he comes give him the expected tid-bit. Gradually begin leading him, but

be cautious. He may buck, jump, or lie down. Coaxing and petting are better than violence with a beagle. Be patient and take your time. Repeat this every day and he will gradually discover that no harm is intended and he will learn to enjoy it. When he comes to that stage that he knows his name and will lead, it is well to take him out (on lead) to new and unfamiliar places. Allow him to see the sights of city and country and he will become accustomed to conditions other than those that surround him in his own home. Thus he will gain more confidence in his master, upon whom he begins to look as a demi-god, and also in himself.

### ***“Charge,” “Drop,” or “Down”***

It is not particularly essential to teach a beagle to charge or drop, for this is not required in his field work, nevertheless it is an accomplishment that is worth while, for on many an occasion you may wish to take your beagle to the hunting grounds in an automobile or buggy and if he can be made to lie down and remain “put” it will save considerable annoyance at times. Various words are used for this command, but whichever one is selected, it should be adhered to, for the dog would soon become confused if he were told to “lie down” on one occasion, to “charge” on another, or to “drop” on still another. A diversity of commands for the same action leads to nowhere. One-word commands, where possible, are always to be preferred over a long rigmarole of chattering such as many novice trainers or dog owners are wont to use. A dog’s understanding of language is simply by association,

all other assertions to the contrary notwithstanding. If the word "drop" is selected, call your puppy to you in a suitable place, press him down into the position you wish him to assume and give the command, "Drop!" not in a loud, but in a low, firm voice. Hold him down in position and keep repeating the word. Naturally, as soon as you take your hands off of him he will get up. You must put him in position again and repeat the command. Practice this the first day, ten minutes, but increase the time as the puppy begins to understand. Eventually he will remain where he is put. Always reward him with a tid-bit of some kind after the lesson, if he does well. When you have him so he will remain in position until you want him to rise, call him and say "Come," or to "hold up" if you like, but use only one form of command. It will be much easier to teach him to come than to drop.

### *"Heel"*

It is time enough to teach the puppy to remain at heel when he is about eight months old, or just before his practical field work is begun. This is an accomplishment, however, that all beagles should be taught. In the previous chapter I mentioned "Charlie's" two well broken beagles, which remained at heel until the command was given to go on, and it is a most satisfactory situation to have dogs under such thorough control. Indeed, two thirds of the pleasures afield consists in having well broken dogs, whether they be beagles, pointers or setters.

The first lessons may be given in the yard. Put the lead on the puppy and instead of allowing him

to tug on it and thus forge ahead, bring him back of you with a short, firm, but not violent jerk and give the command, "Heel!" Do this every time he attempts to go ahead, always repeating the same word, "Heel!" Sometimes by carrying a small light switch and tapping the dog on the nose as the command is given, will serve to enforce it much more promptly than otherwise, but the teacher must be governed in this by the temperament of his pupil and he should be very careful for, as I said previously, the whip should not come into the category of implements for training beagles. After he does fairly well in the yard, take him out on the streets or in the open, always giving the command when the slightest attempt is made to forge ahead. Eventually the lead may be taken off, but if the pupil takes advantage of this freedom, the lead must be resorted to once more. Practice and patience will bring results, but do not expect too much of your pupil in the first few lessons. The temperament and individuality of the pupil in this and all other lessons must be carefully studied, for no two dogs are exactly alike and the wise trainer will always bear this in mind.

### ***To Prevent Gunshyness***

While gunshyness is not of itself hereditary, there is a streak of timidity in many strains of beagles that would cause members of such strains to become gunshy if not carefully handled, for this reason, no matter how bold your puppy may appear to be, it is well to proceed cautiously. As a very young puppy it is advisable to accustom him to various

sounds and the time for this is when he is feeding. Beating on tin pans, dropping boards flat upon each other and various noises of this kind while the pupil's attention is engrossed with the meal before him are suggested as preliminaries, but while this is being done, not the slightest attention must be paid to the puppy. If he becomes frightened move farther away, but leave him entirely to his own devices. When he discovers that these noises have no connection with you he will soon become pacified and return to his feed. Later on it is well to introduce a cap pistol and as he becomes accustomed to this, introduce a revolver with blank cartridges. It is not advisable to introduce a shot gun at this stage, but once the pupil becomes accustomed to the sound of a revolver shot—and he will, if the shooting is not done within sight of him or too near where he is eating—he is ready for the shot gun which may be used in the field, but not until he has taken to hunting and will work fairly well. The time to shoot is when the dog is driving and intensely absorbed in his work. This shooting, however, must be done when the dog is some distance away and the teacher should be out of sight of the dog when he fires. The load should be very light at first. If he stops work at the sound of the report and comes to you, go right along and pay no attention to him. Eventually he will be hunting again and if it should be your good fortune to start another rabbit, try it once more, but again take pains to be out of sight of the dog. He must not know that the shooting has the least connection with you. The chances are that if the pupil has

been accustomed to strange sounds previously, as indicated, he will not pay the least attention to the report of the gun. Do not attempt to kill a rabbit in front of him until you are absolutely sure that he has no fear of the gun. When this is certain, then the real business of hunting may be taken up and it is surprising how soon he will come to enjoy the shooting when he learns that this strange weapon is something to give him pleasure and not to strike terror into his little unsophisticated heart. Good judgment, patience and time are the three requisites in making a good shooting dog of your beagle.

### *Teaching to Whistle or Horn*

This is another accomplishment that should not be taught until the pupil is well advanced in his field work.

Right here I wish to digress long enough to say that the temperament of the trainer is reflected in the dog. In other words, the subconscious expression of the trainer's personality is absorbed by his pupil. If the former is of an excitable nature, he is likely to produce a flighty dog; if on the other hand, the trainer is calm and even tempered, never allowing himself to become excited, the puppy will to a great degree imbibe this characteristic. How often do we not see dogs in the field running hither and thither, going all the time but bringing no results. If one is a close observer he will note that the trainer of the dog is much of the same nature. Therefore, cultivate poise and never allow your pupil to catch you off guard if you wish to be successful.

As regards training to horn or whistle it is advisable to adopt one or the other and then use a fixed method of calling. If the horn is used, one long blast may be the call to come in. Naturally, it is assumed that the puppy is thoroughly trained to come at the call of his name, hence the horn should only be introduced after his field work is well advanced. Never, under any circumstances, call your dog off a trail. Let him finish his work before attempting to bring him to you. To attempt to call a dog off a trail is simply courting a breach of discipline, for no good dog will leave a hot scent to come to his master, and it is bad practice to give an order and not have it obeyed, for this is simply retrograding. However, when the hunt is over and the dogs are still ranging about in the coverts and are not on trail, then is the time that the order must be given and obedience exacted. Call the puppy by his name and at the same time give the blast on the horn. He will be attracted by the call of his name if not by the sound of the horn, but when the two are so closely associated he will soon come to understand that this sound is intended for him. In time it will be unnecessary to use the voice, but simply sound the blast that you have adopted and it will be obeyed.

### *Field Work*

When the puppy is between eight and twelve months old, it is time to begin practical work afield. Some puppies may be ready to start earlier than this, others will not take to hunting until much later, but the general average is about as designated. Some advocate hunting the puppy with an old



reliable slow dog. It is a good practice when just such a dog is available, but as a rule, the beginner does not have such a dog at hand, hence he must rely entirely upon his own resources and upon the intelligence of his dog.

Here is where the early yard lessons will show their value. Keep your puppy at heel until you come to the covert which you wish to hunt and then send him on, encourage him to quest in the likely places and always keep him out in front of you. You may not get him in the least interested the first time, or perhaps the second, or the third, or the fifth, or the sixth, but as long as you can keep him out and working in front of you, you are making progress. There are some instances where a puppy will not leave your side under any circumstances, will take no interest in hunting, or will sit down or find a soft bed in the leaves and lie down. Such puppies are rare, but they are seen once in a while. After taking such a puppy out a dozen times and he shows no encouraging symptoms, the best thing to do is to get rid of him and secure another from a strain that is more likely to bring results. Others, after they begin to hunt and actually run a trail, will never give tongue. This is not such a bad fault and may be corrected by running them with an old dog that is free with his voice. Sometimes also, these mute puppies develop good voices of their own volition after they have more experience.

The main issue during these early lessons is to create a desire within the puppy to go out and hunt. Eventually, the puppy, unless he is one of the hope-

less kind, will strike a trail and probably run it a short distance, or perhaps seventy-five or a hundred yards. This, at least, is a beginning and the trainer should feel satisfied for that day. It is not advisable to work the puppy too long. Take him home after that first run. He will have the memory of it impressed upon him and the next time he is likely to do better, for by this time he is becoming more and more accustomed to the strange sights and sounds in woods and fields.

Assuming that you have succeeded in getting on a trail for the last few times out; continue with the work, encourage him to hunt the likely places by going in with him and sending him on. Here again is where the early lessons will come in good stead, for he recognizes you as the master and he must do your bidding. Keep him busy; let him search everywhere and if possible let him start his own game. We will now imagine that he has progressed along this line, that he has been picking the trails and running them short distances. Whenever you see him working on what might be a trail go to him, encourage him, talk to him and show him where to go; sometimes a little help at this stage means much; indeed, I have often seen dogs in field trials seemingly throw a side glance at their handlers as if appealing to them for help and a word here and there means much to the young dog. A puppy that has been taught to obey will be much more easily sent to the places you desire him to go than one with no education at all. When at last, you get him on a good, straight trail, drive him along as fast as he is able to carry it. You

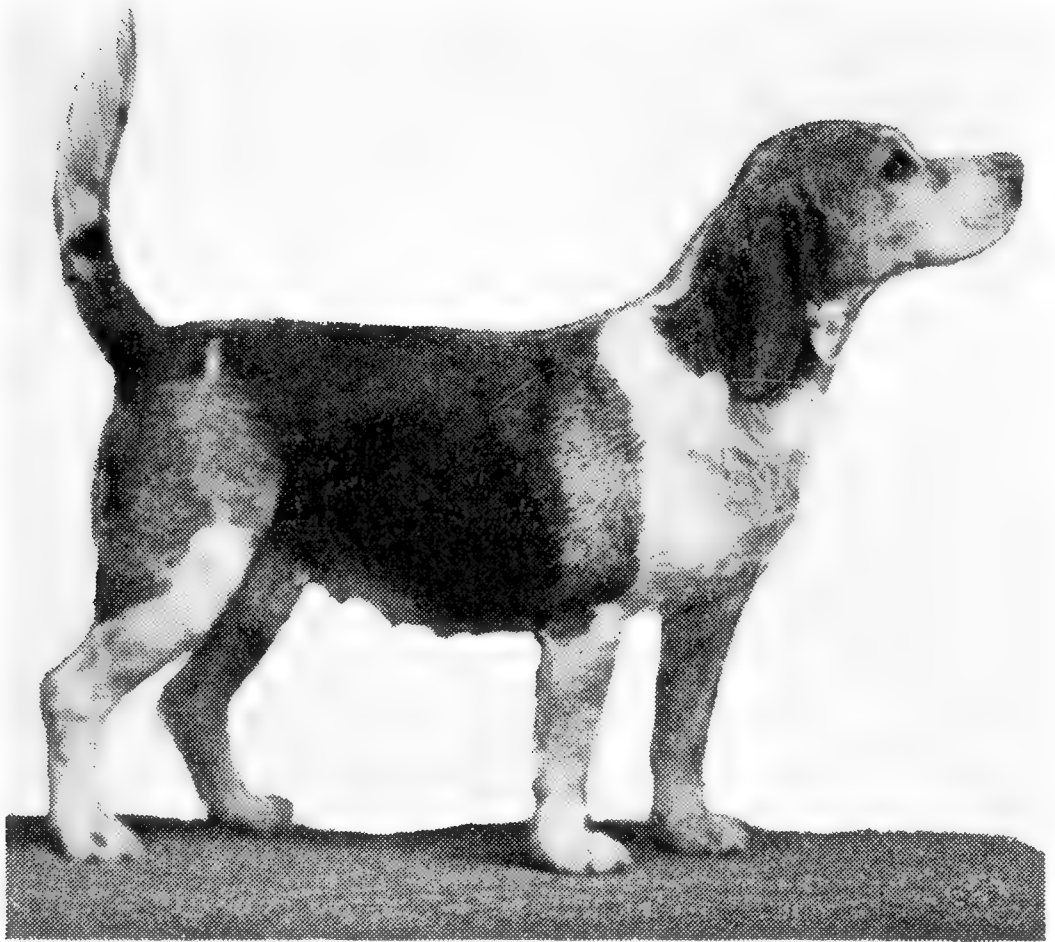
need not be alarmed that you cannot keep sight of him, for he is not going to out-distance you; on the other hand, you will be able to keep right behind him, for in this position you will be more able to see the rabbit on ahead, which the dog, being lower to the ground will not; and thus he must depend upon his nose, which is proper, while you are enabled to assist him with your eyes by noting when the rabbit makes his flings and turns. You will also be there to encourage him on the checks and thus keep the dog going while the trail is hot. This class of hunting should be continued day after day, or as often as you are able to get out with him, but remember, the more experience you give your puppy the quicker he will learn and the more expert he will become. Eventually he will be much surer of his trail and he will run it too fast for you to keep up, but when that time comes it is no longer necessary, only endeavor to be there at the turns and checks in order to assist him over these trying times—for a puppy. By the time the puppy arrives at this stage of his experience he will be developing a keen instinct for hunting and it is surprising how rapidly he will learn. It is also no longer a task for the trainer, but a real pleasure, for your puppy is beginning to drive fast and furiously and he is apt to run more than one cotton tail to hole.

At this juncture—that is, when he is fast enough to hole them—he must be taught to “mark the hole.” Some advocate the use of the ferret, but that is illegal in so many states, so I shall pass that.

The trainer can carry with him a light crow bar, which may be left in the auto or vehicle until the

necessity for it arises. Bring the puppy up to the hole, encourage him to dig and to give tongue, by hissing him on. The trainer must himself dig out the rabbit, which with the aid of the crow bar is not such a difficult task. A few experiences of this kind will soon teach the pupil to remain at the hole, for he has learned that bunny is here and the master will get him out.

I must reiterate here, however, that it is always well to go slowly, but if the method is followed as previously indicated, you will soon have a well trained beagle for shooting purposes. The things to remember are, enforce implicit obedience at all times, except when the puppy is on trail. If it becomes necessary to stop hunting while he is still running a rabbit, the best mode of procedure is to endeavor to catch him up, but to call or blow him off, is next to impossible if the dog is made of the right fibre. At all events it is bad practice to even attempt to do so.



The Beagle, Champion Thorwood Betty.

## CHAPTER V

### *Concerning Field Trials and Field Trial Training*

IT might be well to state at the opening of this chapter that no one can be successful in the training and handling of beagles unless he is familiar with the habits of rabbits. Whether the beginner intends to use his dogs for shooting purposes only, or whether he is interested in field trials, he cannot hope to bring his dog on successfully unless he knows something about the game he is hunting. There are various ways to learn these rudimentary essentials. In the first place, a study of natural history books will give him the theoretical knowledge; but this must be supplemented by actual experience in the field, and an abundance of it. If the beginner can find an old, experienced beagler and casts his fortunes with him for a season, he will learn much at first hand that will be beneficial for himself and for his dogs.

Field trials for beagles have made marvelous strides during the past ten years; consequently, the beagler who may take up the breed at first with no intention of running dogs, will eventually become attracted; for trials may be held in his immediate vicinity, and few are the fanciers who would not attend a beagle trial, even if it is only curiosity, to see how it is done that impels them. After this initial experiment, the seed that was sown at the time begins to germinate and the chances are by another year this novice, who bought his first beagles

for the sole purpose of going out and picking a rabbit now and then, will become a most enthusiastic field trial follower. As a matter of fact, it is this sport of field trials that has made the beagle as popular as he is today among sportsmen. The case is analogous to that of the pointer and the setter. Many a man states emphatically that he will have nothing to do with field trials, but nevertheless, when he buys a beagle he is not averse to proclaiming to his friends that his dog is a descendant of such-and-such a great winner, and that he has four or five or a dozen winners in his pedigree. It is ever thus; we hold the winner in veneration, whether we admit it or not.

Another reason why nearly every beagle fancier can get into the field trial game is because the expense is very slight. Usually the trial takes place somewhere near home (there are clubs in every state); the cost of entering is nominal; and the training of the dogs may be done in the morning and evening, after business hours, if the owner happens to be a professional, business or working man, and it is these classes who cater to beagles, for they are the busy man's recreation. Perhaps it may be that the owner is unable to train his dogs himself, but even in this case the cost of having them prepared for the trials is very small as compared with that of the pointer or setter.

There is not so much to handling in field trials as the average beginner imagines. Once he attends a trial or two he will soon learn the general principles and, if he is observant, the finer points will also be acquired.

The handler has the privilege of rendering all the assistance possible to his dog when in competition, assuming of course that the ethics of the game are observed and there is no breach of the running rules.

Picking a beagle for field trials is not exactly like looking over bird dog prospects; and yet one general law must be taken into consideration, and that is the spirit of competition. No pointer or setter can win without the fighting spirit, the desire to outdo his competitor, and by the same token this holds true of beagles. The beagle that is content to allow his brace-mate to do the work and has no initiative of his own, will never make a field trial dog. It does not follow because a dog is a good field trial dog he will not do for shooting. On the other hand, the good field trial beagle is always a good shooting beagle, though some shooting beagles would never make field trial dogs. However, I am inclined to believe that the shooting beagle without enough initiative would not be considered a good one for either purpose. It is true that sometimes shooting beagles are good because they have a splendid nose, are level headed and given their time, can route up more rabbits and bring them to the gun because of their very persistence, which still would not win because they are too slow, and in field trials one must get results rapidly; quicker than the other dog, and this is what it requires to win. There are some beagles, however, which are too fast for their noses and here again is a fault that would not be desirable, especially in a shooting beagle; although sometimes it is the very speed that wins for a beagle in field trials, as he can depend



upon his brace-mate to straighten him out on the turns, and thus while the other dog does the work he shows the speed, and frequently, under some judges, he wins, but not under experienced men who know the game from every angle.

I have often written of the bond that should exist between trainer and dog. The latter should be the subconscious expression of the trainer's personality. If the trainer is an energetic, vigorous, hustling sort, he will implant these qualities in the dog. On the other hand, if he is one of the listless don't-care-if-I-get-there-today-or-tomorrow kind, then his dog will be much on the same pattern and neither man nor dog will figure very prominently in the prize money. The principal thing to be developed in the beagle, whether it is for field trials or shooting, is the desire to hunt for game.

Many field trial beaglers handle their puppies, which are intended for derby candidates, somewhat differently from the shooting beagle. Usually the practice in vogue is to turn out these derby prospects in a pack of their own and let them get out and develop the desire for hunting without the assistance of an old or experienced dog. The idea is that they will develop into more independent hunters than if they are coached by an old dog. The logic is good, for they learn to hustle for themselves; they learn to depend upon their nose and are not continually watching what the older dog might be doing. If the right material is in them they will soon develop a fondness for hunting and eventually be able to hold a trail with fair success. It is after they have come to this point that they may be

hunted, one at a time, with an older dog, but this must be a reliable and true dog, with not a great degree of speed. The reason why a slow dog is preferable should be obvious, for it stands to reason, that if a puppy is put down with a fast dog he will be obliged to concentrate all his energy and attention on keeping up with his brace-mate, with consequent less attention to the trail; furthermore, the puppy is apt to become a babbler, for he will cry because he cannot keep up, and eventually this superfluous tongueing will become a habit, which will be difficult to break up after it once becomes fixed.

After the puppies are so well advanced that they will carry a trail independently, and hunt with eagerness and judgment when the rabbit is afoot, it is well for the trainer to work them with strange dogs whenever possible; and, if new grounds can be found frequently, all the better, for nothing is so efficacious to give a dog confidence as to accustom him to hunt anywhere he may be put down. A puppy hunted over the same grounds, day in and day out, might do very well where he is accustomed to running; but were he turned down on a field trial ground, for instance, where everything is new, the dogs are strange and the crowd behind him a novelty, it is as like as not that he would not perform up to the form that he showed at home. For this reason the handler preparing his dogs for the trials would do well to join forces with another trainer in some other locality. The two would benefit equally by such an arrangement. They could hunt their dogs in braces over strange territory and thus

have a little field trial of their own. It is surprising to note what a benefit this is to the puppies. They will overcome any tendency to stage fright and will soon learn to feel at home in any company. In this connection it might be well to observe, also, that the puppies should be accustomed to all the various conditions that are likely to befall them in going to a field trial. For instance, taking them back and forth in wagons or automobiles in their crates, shipping them in baggage cars, even if it is only up and down the road for short distances, and also allowing them to run in regular heats with an audience behind them. There is never any trouble to secure the audience, rather, sometimes it is difficult to keep spectators away during the early training when the lessons should be conducted only in presence of one or at most, two trainers.

By derby dog is meant one that is under two years old, or rather, to be more explicit, a dog that is whelped on or after the first of January of any given year is a derby for the fall of the succeeding year. In other words, puppies whelped on or after January 1, 1923, will derbys in the fall of 1924. Naturally the dogs that compete in these stakes, say in October are still very young, for not many of them are whelped in January or February, as a matter of fact, some of them are June or even July puppies, consequently they are but little more than a year old at the time of the early trials. The duration of a field trial heat is supposed to be thirty minutes in the first series, hence it will be seen at a glance that the young dog must begin doing his best at once. The dog that is quick to get down to hunting

promptly, without pottering and frittering away time, is the one that will attract attention, for there is nothing like first impressions. Those who imagine that a dog can be taken out of his kennel, brought to the trials and put into competition with equal chances against others that have been given these preliminary training and precautionary lessons will find how greatly they are mistaken; for it often occurs that the new puppy, though good on his home grounds, will not be over his nervousness, that he naturally acquires under these altered conditions, perhaps for several days; and, it is not logical to expect the best out of him in a public performance under such a handicap.

The budding trainer of field trial beagles will learn something at every trial he attends and among other things, he will note that speed in a field trial beagle is an important factor. He will also learn that there is a way for bringing out all of this latent speed by judicious training. As I stated earlier in the chapter, the puppy should be worked with a dog slower than himself at first. After he has become accustomed to leading this dog, endeavor to secure a brace-mate for him that is a little faster. Perhaps your brother trainer, with whom you have been working out, may be able to assist you. As a matter of fact, two owners can have quite a bit of satisfaction, along with good results, by working out together. When your puppy once gets the habit of leading and cutting out the work, he is not going to let himself be beaten very easily. Naturally, the trainer must guard against making rattle-headed racers out of his dogs, by endeavoring to produce

more speed than the dog has other qualities; but good judgment here will always play its part. It should be borne in mind that judges are always taken with the dog that does his work in the speediest and most snappy manner; hence, if two dogs are running together that are nearly equal in everything else, it will be the ~~faster~~ of the two that will prove to be the winner, simply because he picks his turns, his checks and his losses more rapidly. The dog that is constantly cutting out the work during the heat is the one that has the eyes of the judges upon him.

Condition is another most important factor, if speed and the best class of work is to be expected of a dog. Condition means that the dog must be just right in muscle and flesh. The soft dog, carrying an overabundance of adipose tissue, is not the kind that can go fast and maintain his pace; nor can the underfed animal, that is too weak to go the route.

Feed liberally, giving an abundance of meat during the working season. Work your dogs hard, but feed them accordingly. The flesh and muscle that is put on by good food and exercise are the kind that figure in results, and the beginner should always bear this in mind. Never starve an overly fat dog to bring his weight down. Give him wholesome, nutritious food of a concentrated variety, and not so much in bulk, and keep exercising and hunting him continuously until you have him hard as nails.

The handler, as I stated before, can be of considerable assistance to his dog without violating any

of the ethics of clean sportsmanship or the rules of field trials. For instance, if the dog is doing too much pottering in the same place or does not seem to take to hunting in the thickets, the handler may urge him on, even take several steps in the direction he expects his dog to go or lead him into the bushes, encouraging him to hunt. It is possible that the dog may be confused by the crowd behind him and therefore it behooves the handler to get him away as rapidly as possible, for these first impressions are likely to be lasting ones with the judges. It is quite true that overhandling in this respect will not be tolerated, nor is it always advisable, for the trainer and especially the novice can go too far, and thus do his dog actual damage. In most cases it is the handler himself who rattles his dog, by being too anxious to get results. Let the animal range and hunt, do not become over anxious about getting game afoot; if your dog remains on the course and keeps on hunting, leave him alone.

Nowadays it seems that it is up to the spectators and the judges to start the game; at least this is done in a majority of cases, which to my way of thinking is all wrong, but custom has given this kind of work definite sanction. Assuming that a rabbit has been started from its form. The judges will order the two opposing handlers to get their dogs in hand and hold them up until the game is well out of sight, for sight chases never prove much, but tend to rattle the dogs. Here is where it is well to have your dog under good command and the lessons suggested in the previous chapter come in good stead. If you can call your dog to you

promptly it will save time, and also prevent making a spectacle of yourself and the dog. The fellow who yells and blows and nearly goes into a frenzy trying to get his dog to him when ordered held, never makes much of an impression; besides his antics are apt to rattle the other dog. When ordered to release your dog, do not put him down directly over the bed that the rabbit has just left. Nine times out of ten the scent is much better several yards away from the form. That is, after the rabbit has really once begun running. Therefore, it is best to take the dog up farther ahead and work him across the line that the rabbit is supposed to have taken. Do all this quietly; it always makes a better impression. If the other handler insists upon making a noise, let him do so; but by handling your dog quietly you are most likely to get quicker results. Many is the time that the man doing the most handling in endeavoring to show his dog the line is the one who loses out, while the other fellow, standing there quietly, allowing his dog to range back and forth, is likely to get results; for his dog is more apt to strike first. If it does happen that the opposing dog picks before yours, get your dog in at once. If he is a good harker he will promptly fall in and perhaps if he is the faster of the two he will get the real work, even though his competitor picked the line. Then handlers should both endeavor to keep up as close behind their dogs as possible, but not so close as to interfere or crowd them, for the rabbit is apt to double back after a short run and at this first check both dogs should have free play. If handlers, judges and spectators run all

about here they are sure to ruin the scent. Many a promising drive has thus come to naught in a field trial. It is in reality not the fault of the dogs that they are thus checked, but due to bungling handlers and judges, and especially the latter; for judges should insist upon giving the dogs absolute right of way. The alert handler keeps both eyes open all the time for by doing so he can keep tolerably good tab on the rabbit, and by watching where he goes he is very frequently able to give his dog a little help. Even the experienced dog will turn a glance toward his master at times and frequently, when the latter is alert, he can, by waving a hand or taking a step in the direction the rabbit has gone, give his dog the cue that will put him right. The handler in such contingencies should keep well out of the crowd so his dog can see him. These little helps to the dog are entirely within bounds, and no one can take exception to them.

The dog must be of the right calibre to win field trials, but the handler on more than one occasion can assist him in doing so, by remaining alert at all times while the heat is in progress. For instance, should the opposing dog start a rabbit, be right there to hark your dog in, for it is possible he might not have heard the other dog's opening notes. If your dog is not a good harker or will not come readily to your call or horn, go to him and bring him over to where the other dog is running.

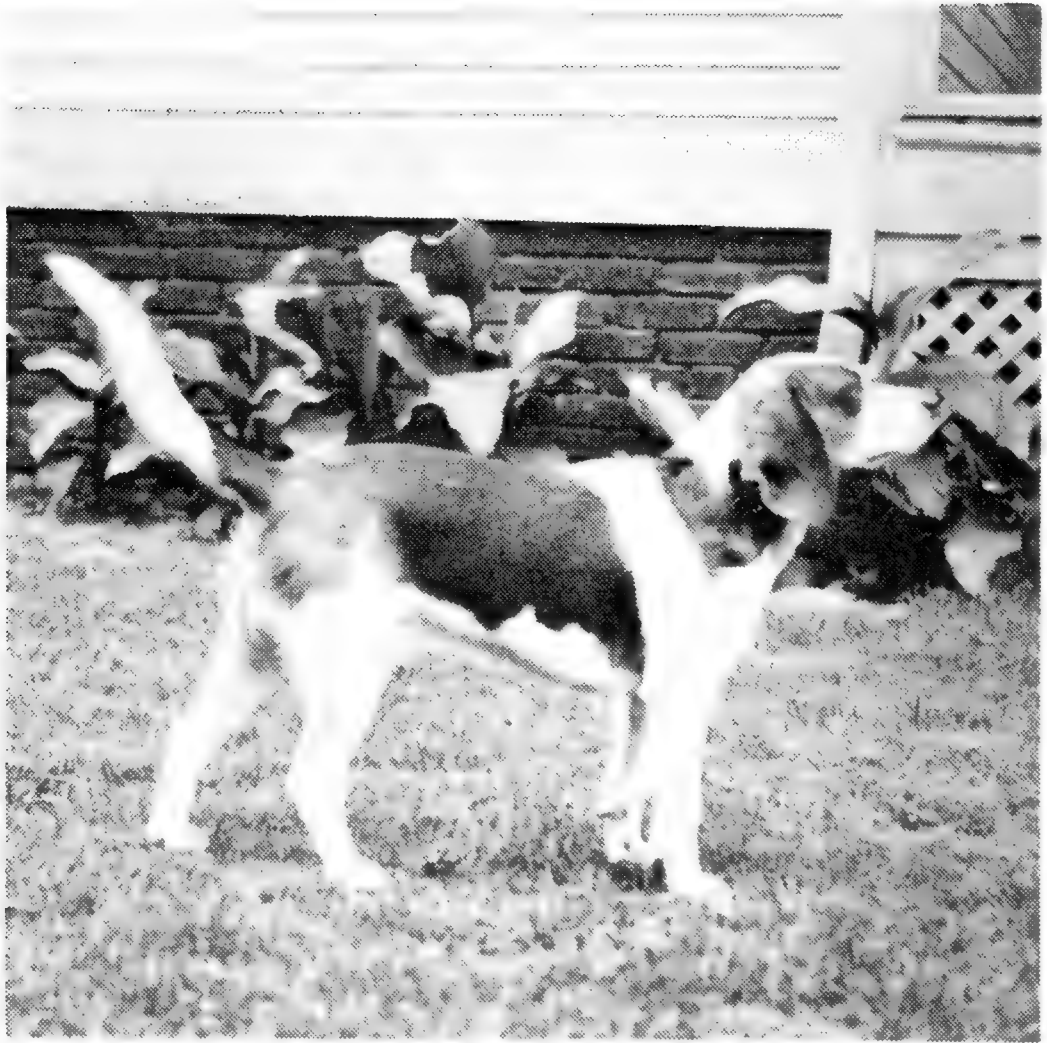
"Marking the hole" is another important thing that is being given due credit at field trials. In the preceding chapter I dwelt upon that and how dogs



may be made good markers; but in a field trial it is even more important, especially now, since it is considered part of the beagle's work. As a matter of fact, why should this not be a point of merit for the dog? The beagle is supposed to drive your rabbit, bring around to you, or run him to earth or cover. Of what good is he, if he does not show you where he holed him? It may be that some judges in past years attached little importance to this because they have often been fooled by some clever handler, who used a convenient hole in some good cover as an alibi for a loss.

Running pack stakes is where the handler must be constantly on the alert also. He must keep his dogs together as much as possible and not allow them to range hither and thither, *ad libitum*. If they are widely scattered he will have still more trouble in getting them together when the game is up. Training here again plays its part and the horn may be used to good advantage with a pack. The stragglers should be gone after and kept up, and if one dog gets away and is inclined to hunt where he pleases, he should be promptly brought up with the pack. The idea of pack work is that all the dogs should hunt together. It must be team work, and this is best accomplished by giving your packs an abundance of work daily, long before the trials.

The handler will soon pick up many other points after attending a few field trials that will be of importance to him; but he should always keep in mind that the head piece and brain work of both man and dog, go hand in hand.



The Beagle, Hempfield's Pathfinder.

## CHAPTER VI

### *Selection and Breeding*

TO be a successful breeder of domestic animals, whether the species be dogs or some other variety, it is necessary to know something about the characteristics of the breed. The more knowledge one has of the ancestry of the particular individuals he possesses, the more likely he is to breed intelligently.

Heredity, atavism and evolution, together with their various ramifications, are the great forces in breeding and the novice must have due regard for these laws. If he is well acquainted with the ancestors of the dogs which he intends to mate, he will know, to a certain extent what to look for and expect; although nature plays tricks sometimes that seem unexplainable.

In the first place, he should select dogs of unquestioned pedigree: not hearsay pedigree, but authentic breeding which has been verified; and if he knows the individuals in this paper which represents his dog's breeding, he will be better fortified than if he builds upon a foundation of guess-work.

If he is breeding for practical field beagles he should select his sire as well as his dams from dogs descended from generations of field beagles. And the more well broken dogs, capable of performing well in the field that are represented in his blood lines, the more likely he is to secure puppies that will also train on while still very young.

While in the strictest sense acquired characters are not transmitted, still in a reflex way this is the case. By breeding from generations of broken dogs it is more likely that the progeny will be working dogs, than by breeding from sires and dams sprung from generations of bench dogs. The progeny of the latter are less susceptible to training than the progeny of the field workers; for the latter inherit from ancestors who acquired their accomplishments, it is true; which is an expression of their intelligence, and in later generations this intelligence is handed down as an instinct, but it has its origin in the acquired characters of the ancestors.

This thesis is easily illustrated in the case with the pointer and the setter, particularly the latter. The setter is descended from the spaniel, a breed which in its earliest days was not taught to "set" its game. As the years went on and the scatter gun came into vogue the art of wing shooting was established; hence, the necessity for dogs that set or pointed their game. Thus, began the idea of teaching spaniels this accomplishment. As the years went on, the best of these setting spaniels were bred together and the setter was evolved. Generations of breeding evolved what was originally an expression of intelligence into an instinct from the acquired character, or trait of setting or pointing; and by constant breeding together of these setting or pointing dogs, a character which was at first taught through the animal's intelligence and susceptibility to training, has become an hereditary instinct, for we find our setters and pointers of today a race of dogs that point naturally, because the character has

been handed down through generations of ancestors that have done the same.

It is practically the same with the hound family. This type of dog, from his earliest days, has been taught to recognize and trail certain scents and by continuous breeding to develop this particular trait, all of our different varieties of hounds are descended. The foxhound for generations was taught to recognize only the scent of the fox and thus to this day, dogs descended from real working strains take to the work naturally. The coonhound, although an offshoot from what were known as American hounds originally, was taught to hunt and tree the "varmints" of the woods and most of them take to it with little training. The beagle, which is a miniature hound, was taught to follow the rabbit or hare exclusively, and having specialized in this particular work for generations, he is today a natural rabbit hunter. Reasoning along these lines, it is easy to understand why the beagles descended from the strains of working stock in unbroken lines are more likely to reproduce themselves than such strains which for generations have lived in a kennel and have only the experience of the show ring behind them. Such strains, although originally descended from stock which was used in the field regularly, are not as likely to transmit practical qualities for the very reason that such characters have become latent from disuse and therefore progeny descended from them do not respond so readily.

The breeder, therefore, is urged to select his stock according to the uses he wishes to make of it. If he is breeding solely for bench show specimens, then

it is as well that he confines himself to bench show strains; if, on the other hand, he wishes to develop a race of working beagles, for best results he must look to those families that are noted for such qualities, to produce them. However, there are numerous typical working strains of beagles and the beginner need not fear that he must sacrifice type in order to maintain the useful qualities.

In the breeding of all domestic animals one must also have due regard for the weaknesses that may be prevalent in the various strains, whether they are latent or active. In beagles one finds such weaknesses as frequently as in other varieties. For instance, if it is discovered that descendents from certain families are nervous, rattle-headed and inclined to gun-shyness. The latter character may not be transmitted directly, but the predisposition to it is transmitted, hence the breeder must act accordingly, by selecting the parentage from such stock which is free from this taint. Constitutional disease is another character that is easily intensified. For instance, I have seen certain families of dogs where eczema and other skin diseases were almost incurable. This is due to inheritance and the only way to eradicate it in the progeny is to breed to another line of blood that shows nothing of this weakness.

Cross breeding, line breeding and in-breeding are three other phases of beagle culture that should be given consideration. Cross breeding means the mating of strains that are directly opposed to each other, even though they may be of the same variety. For example, one crossed a strain of beagles that had no show qualities whatever, but were noted for

their qualities afield, with a family whose sole claim to merit lay in their good looks, but were worthless as far as field dogs are concerned. Violent crosses of this kind bring out remarkable results sometimes, but again undesirable characters are introduced that will require generations to eradicate.

Line breeding is the mating of individuals from the same family; as for instance, uncles to nieces, cousins to cousins, aunts to nephews. Inbreeding is the breeding of animals bearing a closer relationship, and when brothers and sisters are interbred it is usually known as in-and-in breeding.

To successfully produce stock within such confined lines the breeder must be a very careful student. This close breeding means the intensification of all characters. If certain qualities are in evidence in a family that one wishes to perpetuate, there is no quicker way than to breed within the lines of the family. Furthermore, there is no more rapid method for fixing type than by this close breeding. On the other hand, if weaknesses and undesirable characters exist it must be borne in mind that these will be intensified in the same ratio as the good qualities, consequently the breeder must be absolutely sure of his individuals and also know the ancestry back for six or seven generations. In dog breeding it has been known that certain undesirable characters existing far back in the family tree cropped out in the seventh generation. Thus it might be well to reiterate, if there are constitutional weaknesses, there is no surer way to intensify the trouble than by close breeding. However, when all is said, line and in-breeding have done much for the beagle, but

those who resorted to the practice knew the material with which they were working. Contrariwise, many a novice has created havoc by mating closely bred individuals of which he knew nothing.

### *Selecting the Dam*

Assuming, however, that the breeder or the prospective fancier has paid due regard to these briefly outlined principles of breeding. His selection for a brood matron should be one in perfect health. She should be well made, and at least a fair average as to type, and she should be temperamentally as well as physically right. Months before she is bred, her new owner should prepare for this event that is about to be. He should feed her well (and do not forget that a goodly portion of meat should be part of the ration), and he must exercise her regularly. Grooming is another thing that helps wonderfully, not only in keeping the coat in good condition, but the muscles remain pliable and the blood circulation is maintained. Many dog owners overlook this little attention as of no importance, but that is a mistake. Who would keep a blooded horse and not have him groomed daily? Just so with the blooded dog. Groom them daily, exercise them regularly, give them the proper food, an abundance of pure, fresh water, and disease as well as all other complications will be reduced to a minimum.

Before breeding it is also advisable to treat the prospective mother for worms. All dogs are afflicted with these pests more or less, and while whelps do not inherit them directly, it is as well, and in fact necessary, that there be no handicaps in the way



that are likely to undermine the vitality and normal constitution of the dam, for she needs all her forces for the maintenance of the unborn young. There are numerous vermifuges on the market that are safe and sure, which may be used for the purpose. Personally, I always preferred to give this treatment just before the matron is bred, rather than after she is once in whelp, although no material harm is likely to be done if treatment is given during the early weeks of pregnancy.

Furthermore, the surroundings should be congenial. She should have a good kennel, either outdoors or in a barn, where her bed is clean and dry at all times, and she must have an exercising yard to which she should have unobstructed access at all times during the day and night.

The first period of oestrus or season may appear at any time between the ages of seven and fifteen months, but the average is between nine and twelve months. Some breeders of beagles mate their young bitches at the first season and obtain good results in the way of strong, healthy litters, but the most logical period to breed is after the bitch is well matured, and this is not generally the case at the first season; consequently, it is as well to pass this first period of oestrus and wait for the second. The bitch will not only be better fitted physically, but being older, it may be assumed that she has more experience afield and is therefore well on the way toward being a broken field performer. As stated in the earlier part of this chapter, I am a believer in breeding from broken stock. At eighteen to twenty months old the bitch has had a full

season's work, consequently she is better prepared to assume the burdens of motherhood and bring much more satisfactory results.

The first indication that the period of oestrus or season is at hand will be noticed by the close observer in the changed temperamental characteristics of the bitch. The timid ones become bold, very often irritable; the bold ones sometimes become timid and nervous. It is the external changes that must be carefully noted at this time however. The genitals will become swollen and as soon as this becomes apparent she should be isolated from her companions in a room that is positively inaccessible to males. Far the better plan is to have a room on an upper floor in a barn, which should be ventilated by well barred windows, high enough from the floor so that there be no drafts. If she is taken out during this period it must be under constant surveillance and the better plan is to keep the bitch on lead. It is surprising how readily the dogs of a neighborhood detect the presence of a bitch in season in a locality, hence it becomes manifest why the room on an upper floor is desirable, for dogs will dig under the floor of a lower room and bitches will themselves find a way to dig out of what may, to all appearances, be an impregnable enclosure. In a day or two after the swelling is first noticed, a whitish discharge will become evident, and this in another forty-eight hours or less changes to a pale pink, increasing in quantity and color until it is a discharge of pure blood. The entire period of oestrus extends over twenty-one days; some times less and occasionally more, but three weeks is the

average time. During the second week the discharge begins to grow less and the swelling subsides somewhat. This is usually about the fourteenth or fifteenth day and this is considered the best time for the mating with the dog. As a rule she will accept him voluntarily, although it is not unusual for her to do this before this time or even a week after, or as late as the twenty-first day, hence it becomes obvious that she must be kept confined during the full period. Some breeders are of the opinion that sex in the puppies may be controlled according to the time when the mating is consummated, their theory being that if the bitch is bred early in the season, she will be prone to have more females; while if bred late in the season, the males will predominate. This, however, is a theory that has never been proved by indisputable data. When it is possible, it is best to allow the bitch to select her own time for service; hence, it is well for the owner of the bitch to send her to the owner of the stud dog in ample time and if the stud dog owner takes a real interest, he will use his discretion in the matter. Sometimes it happens, and especially with maiden bitches, that they will not take the dog voluntarily at any time, in which event they must be held and forced. Such forced services are usually as productive as the voluntary ones if the copulation occurs at the proper time. It is also possible that some bitches cannot mate with the dog under any circumstances, due to some functional disarrangement on the part of the bitch. Frequently the use of the dilator is necessary, but unless the breeder is experienced in such matters, it is well

to call in a man who is qualified in canine practice to take charge of the situation.

As to number of services, this has always been a mooted question. Some breeders prefer two or even three, with intervals of one day between each, but from personal observations and from the experiences of many others who have given the matter attention, I believe that one service at the right time is as productive of results as more; indeed, sometimes the outcome is even more satisfactory. Most owners of stud dogs that are in great demand positively refuse to give more than one service and from the records I have before me, I find that the one service plan has in all cases shown just as large litters and the average of misses is not in the least larger, than when the two and three service plan is adhered to.

A normal bitch is supposed to come in season once every six months. This time varies in individuals however, and sometimes one finds them coming in every four months; or occasionally they are very irregular, ranging from four to eight months, but the average is twice a year. The frequency that a bitch should be bred depends entirely upon the individual. Many strong, healthy bitches have been bred at every season for two or three years, and raised large, strong, healthy litters; but it does not follow, because they show no apparent decline, that this constant sapping of their vitality will not prove baneful in the end. Usually such bitches age very early in life and in many instances their breeding days are over when, as a matter of fact, they should be in their prime. Some bitches

are so weakened that they become thin and out of condition in general. Naturally in such cases the owner soon learns for himself that the bitch should have a period of rest occasionally. The general opinion is that if a bitch raises one strong healthy litter a year this is all that should be expected of her, and in this I heartily concur.

### *Selecting the Stud Dog*

If the owner of the matron is not also the owner of a stud dog he should cast about for a suitable mate for his bitch long enough ahead, so as to have all arrangements made before she has come to her period of oestrus. In this connection it might be observed that even though the owner may have a dog of good breeding, if he is not suited to the particular bitch which he intends to breed, he should not hesitate to go elsewhere to find one that is. Economy in saving stud fees is frequently not economy after all and the wise breeder realizes this.

In the selection of the stud dog, the breeder or owner of the bitch must be governed by the good points and the weak ones that exist in her. In the first place, pedigree should be given careful consideration, in order to ascertain whether or not such a particular combination is advisable from the view point of fusing the two lines of blood. This alone, however, is not an absolute guarantee of a successful union. The individual must be taken into consideration. Type, naturally, should be some influence. If the bitch is weak in muzzle, not correct in couplings or bad in front, the idea should be to select a dog that is good in these parts and at the

same time, ascertain whether or not these strong points are characteristic of the strain. Field qualities are of still greater importance. If the bitch is slow but sure of nose, it is well to select a dog that is fast, even though there may be a slight deficiency in nose. Voice is another thing that figures prominently in breeding beagles. If the bitch is deficient in this respect it would be foolhardy to breed to a screechy-voiced dog, unless there were other qualities that overshadowed this question of voice; but a deep-toned mouth is always desirable, and if it can be obtained without sacrificing other essentials, it is certainly worth while to give this some attention. As a matter of fact, for a hunting beagle, I would personally be willing to sacrifice some other points if in doing so there was a possibility of obtaining voice, nose and level-headedness.

It is scarcely necessary to say that a dog selected for breeding should be free from constitutional weaknesses, especially if the blood lines are very similar to those of the bitch. He should be a strong, healthy, vigorous dog; with abundant experience in the field, and he should be of the proper height, in order not to take any chances of breeding over-size specimens.

Another thing that it might be well to be sure about is whether or not the dog is being over-studded. Some dogs obtain such a vogue that the drain upon them is so great that their litters are likely to be very small or to consist of undersized puppies. On the other hand, they are prone to miss frequently. While sometimes it is highly desirable to select such a dog, because of certain

blood lines or qualities he may possess, it is best to make sure that at the time the bitch is sent, he is not to be overburdened by an excess of stud work. This, as a rule, does not happen with many beagles, but I have known of more than one case where setters and pointers had as high as six and seven bitches waiting for them, all in the kennel of the stud dog owner at the same time.

The owner of a popular stud dog should take exceedingly good care that his dog is not over-studded. He might do a lucrative business for a season, but in the end it is better to be more discriminate in the acceptance of bitches and allow fewer services rather than to have the dog over-taxed and incapacitated in a brief time. A stud dog, which is properly cared for, should be able to sire puppies at twelve years old; though of course, at that age, it stands to reason the demand upon him must only be made occasionally. Mohawk II, the well known champion field trial setter, sired puppies at the age of thirteen.

The care of a stud dog is also of paramount importance. He should be given exercise of a mild nature, and this should be along the lines of his natural inclinations; that is, work afield. However, this should not be of such a strenuous nature or of such frequent occurrence that it usurps all of his energy. Short runs afield several times a week are sufficient during periods when the dog is being used regularly at stud, and should the demand upon him be very great, then even this form of exercise should be abandoned for the time being. This statement may be at variance with the views of many stud

dog owners, but I make the assertion on the strength of observation in connection with field trial pointers or setters. As a matter of fact, I am willing to go on record with the statement that heavily studded dogs will have less misses during a busy season if they are given no field work at all, but simply allowed the run of their yards as the only form of exercise.

It is quite logical that the stud dog must be kept on good, wholesome rations during the season. His food should consist of at least two-thirds meat, and the other third may be portioned so as to give the ration a certain amount of bulk, consisting of dry bread, vegetables or dog biscuits. Raw meat preferably, lean beef, should be fed several times a week and strong broths occasionally, are also wholesome. When it becomes apparent that the drain upon the dog is too great, stimulants in the way of raw eggs, phosphates with iron, cod liver oil, etc., should be given; but perhaps when the dog comes to such a stage he would better be given a period of rest.

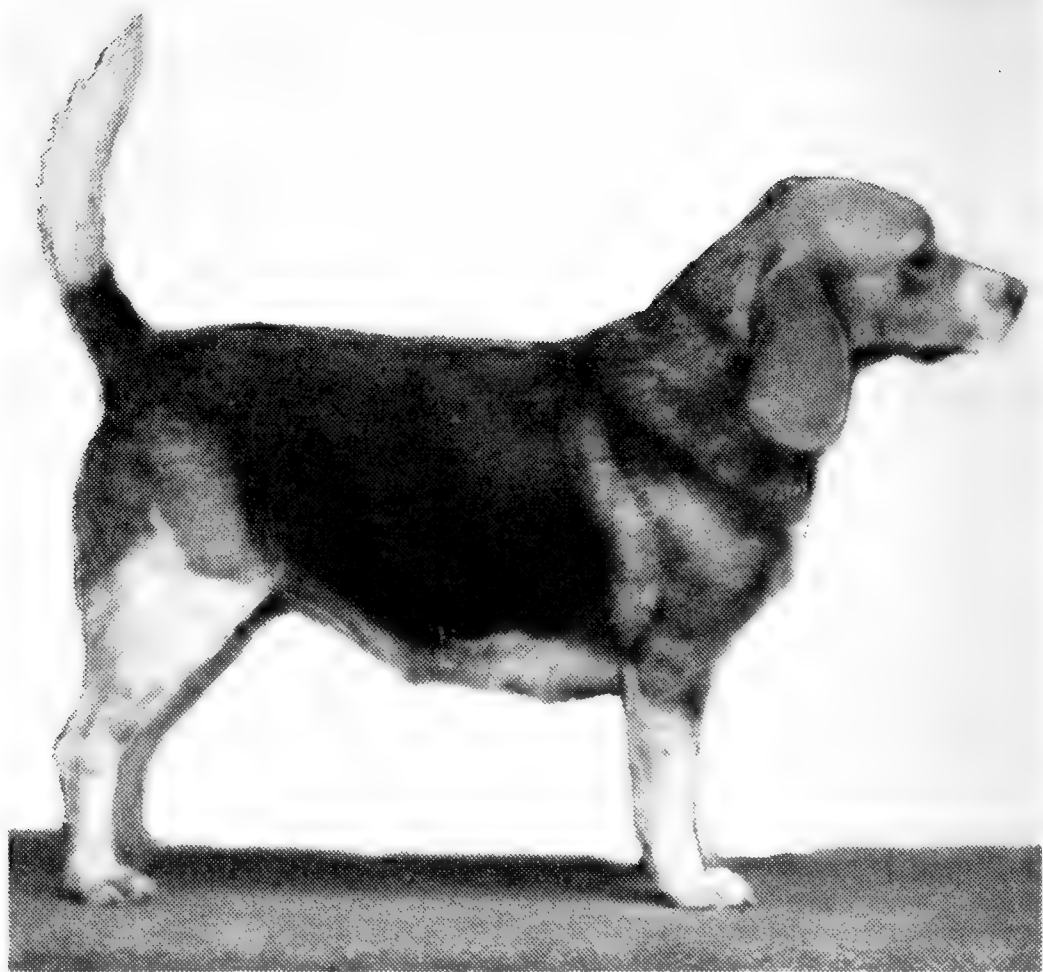
It is scarcely necessary to say that the dog constantly receiving bitches from all parts of the country is exposed to various contagious diseases; hence, the owner must be on his guard and not allow such services where there is the slightest danger. One of the dread diseases among pointers at the present time is a kind of venereal disease, analogous to syphilis in the human race. It is one of the most insidious diseases of all; because, unless an examination of the bitch is made by a qualified veterinarian, it cannot be detected, but during the years from



1920 to 1923 numerous well known animals among bird dogs have suffered from it and it created untold havoc before it was discovered that such a disease actually existed. The disease is communicable only through copulation and it is not incurable in the dog, provided it is discovered in the early stages. In bitches it is more difficult to combat, though cures through operations have been reported. So far, I have never heard of it among beagles and it is to be hoped that it may never appear.

As regard the age a dog may be placed in stud, much depends upon the breed and the individual. In medium sized dogs service is successful at a year old and I have known of some cases much younger than that. One particular instance comes to mind of a toy spaniel which at seven months old successfully served a matron, which resulted in an unusually large litter for that breed.

At all events, it is not advisable to stud a dog under eighteen months old; even in beagles, and if he is two or two and a-half years of age all the better.



The Beagle, Champion Granger's Daintiness.

## CHAPTER VII

### *Care of the Matron—Rearing the Puppies*

THE period of gestation in the canine species is from sixty-three to sixty-four days, or in round numbers, nine weeks from the day she is bred until the day that she whelps. Occasionally it happens that the period is only fifty-eight days and again they go over time to sixty-eight days, without bad effect; but should the time extend beyond that, then complications may be expected and an examination had better be made. Puppies whelped before the fiftieth day will not live, and the chances are against them even at fifty-one or fifty-two days.

During this period, when the prospective mother is carrying her young, she should have more attention than at other times; but it must not be supposed that constant interference with her is necessary. Feed her well and let her alone, except that she should be washed several times during the early part of the pregnancy, and if she has not been given a vermifuge before she was bred, it is well to do so, but not after the beginning of the fourth week. As a matter of fact, I prefer giving the vermifuge *before* the breeding rather than *after*. She should be fed more liberally from the beginning. Meat, broths, stale bread, over which broth or milk may be poured, occasionally raw lean beef or mutton, large bones to gnaw upon; and the meals may be given more frequently. That is, during this period, and especially toward the latter part, it is well to feed three times a day in smaller quantities rather

than the usual one large evening meal. The reason is obvious, for it is unwise to give such a large ration as to distend her stomach and increase the prospective mother's discomfort. Exercise during the first four weeks may be about the same as when she is in normal condition, unless you know her to be given to aborting; then, naturally, her activities should be restricted. After the beginning of the fifth week it is well to omit violent exercise, but allow her to take all she pleases in the kennel yard; provided there are no benches or high places from which she might jump on and off. The beginner, upon superficial examination might not be able to determine whether the bitch is in whelp or not before external signs make this obvious, but by placing the hand on her abdomen and pressing upward it will be noticed at the end of the fourth week, if she is in whelp, that she sags down immediately upon release of the hands. At five weeks the distended sides begin to show and at the end of the sixth week, her altered form in general will become quite noticeable.

It is from this time on that she must be watched more carefully. While it is not necessary to isolate her from all her companions (if there are any); it is as well not to allow her to romp with larger or older dogs, as sometimes an accident may occur by one of the dogs colliding with her. About the seventh week put her in the place where you expect her to whelp. That is, if you have a separate whelping kennel or yard prepared for her; and it is always well that this be done sometime in advance, in

order to allow her to become accustomed to her new surroundings. Sometimes, however, the most carefully prepared place will not suit her and if she has the freedom of the premises she may select a place under the barn or the porch, or some other secluded corner. This being the case, and it is in mild weather, it is as well to let her alone; as she will be much better satisfied than with human interference. This is resorting to the nature method, it is true, but when conditions in the way of weather and otherwise are right, sometimes nature is a far better guide than all the science that man can devise. If the place for her "maternity ward" has been selected by her master this should be so situated as to be away from other dogs and disturbances. A darkened room or corner in a barn, in a box stall or in an outbuilding, are all quite satisfactory. A kennel compartment, when regular kennels are maintained, is also a good place; but this should be out of the glaring light. The usual sleeping benches should be removed, and a flat platform flush up against the wall and not more than inch or two above the floor should be installed. Some insist that a piece of carpet should be tacked over this in order to give the mother something to get her claws into during her hour of travail; but this is not always the most satisfactory method, for the covering is likely to become torn before her time and the puppies are liable to be caught among the shreds and thus become strangled; or, the mother is as likely as not to lie on them before the puppies are able to extricate themselves. A wooden strip about

two inches above the platform securely nailed along the edge, extending down to the floor so that the young cannot roll underneath; and a heap of straw on the platform is about as nearly as one can come to nature, and generally proves satisfactory and warm enough except in very cold weather. Naturally in winter time, the prospective mother should be in a place where artificial heat may be provided, if necessary; for the temperature in the whelping room should never be under sixty-five degrees Fahrenheit. In winter, if there is no other way of providing a warm room in the kennel, a temporary place in the basement is advisable; or, this not being practicable, a corner in the kitchen should be utilized.

During the time of parturition, she should not be molested. All this well meant attention is unnecessary and oftentimes is obnoxious to the mother. The one who has been taking care of her may look in occasionally, say a few words to her, pat her on the head or offer her a drink of water and then leave her, if all is going well. In case of complications it is time enough to interfere, and then on such occasions it is well to have the services of an expert; but normally, these contingencies are rare. If the period of parturition extends over many hours it might be well to take the puppies away as they are born; put them in a flannel-lined basket and cover them with a flannel blanket, and keep them in a warm place until the mother has completed her labors. The puppies, however, should be left with her after they are born until the mother gives them her attention; for she will clean them and dry

them much better than could be done by human hands. The whelping nest is also looked after by the mother, and so is the placenta, or afterbirth. Leave her alone and when you return to her after the puppies are all whelped you will find everything clean and in as satisfactory condition as might be expected. Do not, under any circumstances, attempt to wash or handle the puppies. All the care that they need will be given them by the mother. After all is over, perhaps it might be well to sponge the mother off and dry her thoroughly, for the escape of the waters (*liquor amnii*) may leave her in an unsuitable condition. When left to shift for herself and the mother selects a place under the barn or some other similar place, the dampness will be absorbed by the dry earth, hence no attention is necessary or possible; but where it takes place under the supervision of the master, it is well to change the bedding, in which a little disinfectant may be used in order to ward off fleas or other vermin. In sponging off the mother, luke warm water, in which a few drops of any of the creosote preparations have been poured, should be used; but as previously stated, she must be thoroughly dried and then allowed to return to her family.

Usually the flow of milk begins several days before the puppies are born, but very frequently it stops during the time of whelping. This is due to the strain, excitement and other conditions, but this need not worry the owner. The milk will come in due time and there need be no artificial methods resorted to; unless febrile symptoms are apparent,

in which case expert attention is necessary. This however, does not often occur if the matron has lived under normal conditions during her period of gestation, and it is surprising how nature takes care of itself. The puppies will immediately suckle the mother after they are born, and when the whelping is over and all are put back in the nest, it is an interesting sight to watch their instinctive scrambling for position. Another point that should not be disregarded is that the bitch must have her absolute freedom. She must not feel that she is a prisoner and should be allowed to go in and out of the barn or kennel at will. Nothing must be forced upon the young mother at this time. She should have her own way and this is particularly imperative with one of the nervous kind; for if there is cause for her to fret, the milk will become tainted and the puppies will suffer. After the whelping is well over, it is well to offer the mother some food, which should be in the nature of gruel, broth, from which the grease has been skimmed, or even small bits of lean, raw beef. Sometimes when the flow of milk is scanty or wholly suppressed the feeding of raw meat will be a splendid stimulant. During this period and even preceding the whelping, the bowels of the mother should be kept open, not by drastic cathartics, but by doses of olive or castor oil; or if absolutely necessary, a dose of Epsom salts.

Sometimes it occurs that the milk of the mother is of such a nature that it is absolutely injurious to the puppies, due to acidity. It will become noticeable at once, for the puppies will whine and be gen-



erally ill at ease after nursing, and if it is long continued they will die one by one. This condition is easily corrected, however, if bicarbonate of soda is given three times daily. The dose should be about as much as can be heaped upon a dime. If this condition is not corrected at once, it will be disastrous to the puppies. In such cases it is well to procure a foster mother. Naturally, if this is the first litter, the qualities of the mother as a nurse are unknown; but where trouble of this kind has been experienced before, it is well to provide for the foster mother in advance, so that she will be on hand to assume the duties of the real mother at a moment's notice. For further information and more minute particulars regarding the foster mother or raising puppies on a bottle, I would suggest that the beginner procure a copy of a former book of mine entitled, "Dog Keeping for the Amateur."

Under normal conditions little care need be given the puppies for the first few weeks, but the mother should be well fed and not less than three times a day. When the puppies are three weeks old, there is reason to suspect worms; for few puppies go through life without them, and at this tender age these parasites are prone to work sad havoc. Many a litter of puppies die off rapidly for no other reason than because they have not been treated. Some are averse to treating puppies of this tender age for worms, but one remedy I can recommend as one that is safe and effective is "Le Roy's Puppy Worm Remedy," which is one of the best specifics for young puppies and in fact any puppy under a year

old, no matter what the breed, that I have ever encountered, though no doubt there are others just as efficacious.

### *Weaning and Feeding the Puppies*

For the first three weeks the mother has sole charge of the puppies, but if the litter is a large one and the youngsters are becoming too great a burden for her, it is well to give her some assistance by beginning to do some supplementary feeding. That is, I do not mean that the puppies should be weaned at this early age, but much of the care may be taken from the mother if they are fed two or three times a day. The best plan is to scald the milk and place it in a large, flat pan or shallow vessel. After it has cooled, bring the puppies up to it, dip their noses into it a few times and it will be noticed how readily they will lick the liquid off. By repeating this a time or two, they will soon learn to lap the milk. This supplementary feeding may be continued until the puppies are seven or eight weeks old, when it is time to wean them entirely; for it will be observed that the constant attentions which the mother has been bestowing upon them becomes more lax as the weeks pass. Indeed, the puppies are large enough now as to become irksome to the mother, when they come clawing her for sustenance, and she frequently remains away from them for hours at a time. However, if they have been started to lap milk at three or four weeks old, it is an easy matter to take the mother away entirely.

Feeding must be done frequently; during these early weeks of weaning, the puppies should be fed at least every four hours until very late in the evening, and the first meal in the morning must be given about daylight. To the scalded milk may be added broken up stale bread, dog biscuits, or any of the prepared puppy meals. Occasionally give them a little meat cut up into small bits, and do not be afraid to feed raw meat, lean beef or mutton several times a week. Only small quantities should be given and this must be cut up into small shreds. It is surprising how all puppies take to this, but raw meat is the natural diet of the canine and to withhold this from them, even when they are young is going against the laws of nature. The old fallacy that meat is injurious to puppies is a theory that has been exploded long ago. Personally, I have experimented with puppies by feeding some of them meat and withholding it from part of the litter and I am convinced that the meat fed puppies grew up stronger, heartier and with more vitality than any of the others that were compelled to live on milk and bread. As the puppies grow older, more meat may be fed and frequently give them large bones to gnaw upon. This is not only good for the teething period, but it amuses the youngsters and makes for general hardiness. The bones should be the large, soft ones; not those of poultry or other brittle varieties that are easily splintered, as a splinter from one of these might lodge in the intestines or even in the throat and cause no end of trouble, probably death.

When the puppies are nine or ten weeks old the meals may be cut down to four, but more variety may be fed. Meat should always be part of the diet for at least two of the meals each day. Milk is very nutritious, as it is the natural diet of all young mammals, but it stands to reason that as the puppies grow older it cannot be fed to the exclusion of all other foods. Say for instance, a milk and stale bread ration is fed as the first meal in the morning. At ten o'clock the diet may be varied by feeding a little cooked meat with the broth, into which puppy meal has been stirred or dog biscuits have been broken. At two o'clock they may be given another good portion of meat, broth and well cooked vegetables, prefacing this meal by giving them a little raw beef cut up very finely and fed in small quantities. In the evening they might have another ration similar to the two o'clock meal. This diet may be varied in many ways, but what should be impressed upon the mind of every beginner is that meat is not only not injurious, but highly essential for puppies, if best results in growth and general hardihood are to be expected. I am not much of a believer in cereals, such as, corn or oatmeal, particularly the former; although for an occasional change such foods may be fed at rare intervals.

When the puppies are twelve weeks old the number of meals may be reduced to three. It is well at this age to treat for worms again, for even though they have been thoroughly eradicated when the puppies were very young, it is a practical certainty that they are again infested. Indeed some breeders

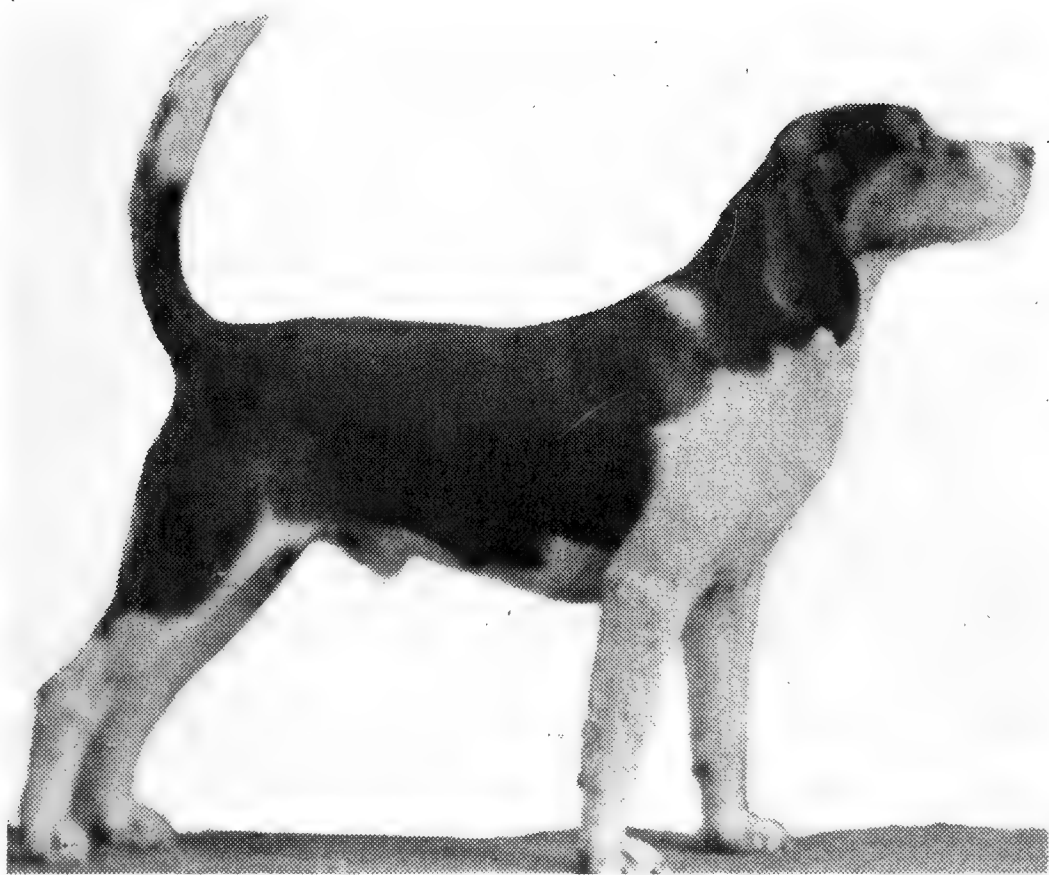
advocate treating puppies for worms once every month or six weeks and I do not believe this system is in the least at fault.

The mother by this time has gone back to the ranks of the aged dogs and the puppies are given a runway or yard to themselves. At least this should be done, for the youngsters will thrive better among their own kind, than if they were to be placed in the same kennels with their elders. Feeding should be continued three times a day until the puppies are six months' old and then a morning and evening meal, both of rather liberal proportions should be given. After the puppies are a year old, unless there is special reason, they may be fed like the old dogs; and in this connection I might observe that some dog owners feed only once a day, and that meal is given in the evening, while others believe in feeding a light meal in the morning and the full meal late in the afternoon or evening.

The training of the puppies I have alluded to in the earlier chapters, but it is assumed that if the breeder retains the whole or part of the litter he will begin on their education when the proper time arrives.

The selection of a puppy out of a litter is frequently a momentous occasion and in this connection I might observe that those who see the young every day will know better how to select than the person who comes for the first time to look them over. Seeing a litter of puppies about the kennel yard in their romps and their play moods, and under all circumstances, gives one a wonderful insight

into their character, their individuality and their idiosyncrasies. One will be bold and fearless, generally the leader at all times; when it comes to playing or feeding. Another may be timid and cowed and still another may have a combination of characters. For field uses it is always a safe venture to select the boldest of the lot, but if conformation and markings are to be given consideration above actual field promise, then the case is altered and one must be governed accordingly; but, it is scarcely necessary to suggest to the man who has seen a litter of beagles grow up under his very eyes, from the day they were whelped until they are ten or twelve months' old, how to make his selection of first or second choice.



The Beagle Champion, Stirnkorb's Drive 'Em.

## CHAPTER VIII

### *Type and Standard of the Beagle*

TYPE in the beagle has been a subject for discussion ever since the days of the early importations and in all probability it will continue to be so. That, however, is a perennial subject with most all breeds. With the beagle the difference between the bench and the field trial types is not so pronounced, as is the case with the English setter, nevertheless there is a difference. As has been stated in one of the earlier chapters, only two beagles in the history of the breed have become champions in the field and on the bench, which is some indication of the diversity; but still this does not prove everything, for as with the setter fanciers, there are certain classes who devote their time to field trials while others prefer the emoluments of the show ring.

Whether or not the two will ever actually come together in the evolution of the happy medium is about the same question that has been agitating setter breeders for so many years.

Regarding type in the beagle, the discussions have been interesting and as they give the novice a fairly good idea as to what breeders were striving for, I shall quote some of the writings of early breeders which Eugene Lentilhon has gathered together in his excellent book, "Forty Years' Beagling in the United States."

Under the title "Standard and Judge," J. M. Pulley, using the nom de plume, "Comedy," had the



following to say in answer to letters that appeared in print that same year (1895). Comedy writes:

“So long as matters rested with the terrier men, so long was I satisfied to let it rest, but now that it has touched on ‘ye by the hound’ I feel that I should like to say a word or two. Our Gloversville friend (Mr. Zimmer) is right when he remarks that ‘Some men who have judged this breed (beagle) in times past could do some thinking to advantage.’ For we scarcely ever see prizes awarded to dogs of the same type. At some shows we see first go to a long-bodied dog which favors the Basset or Dachshund shape, and second to a dog that is perhaps good in body, but whose head is anything but that of a beagle and with ears and eyes like a terrier; truly, ‘how long since the beagle must have a terrier eye?’

“I, too, am in favor of a cobby body, and I think all men that are looking for staying qualities are of the same taste. Of course, I can’t overlook the fact that we get more dog if we get a longer body, and I am inclined to think that such a type is less likely to throw oversized hounds, but is it not more creditable to breed one or two good typical beagles than a lot of long, low hounds that put their growth in length?

“The question of head is rather hard to put on paper, but with all due respect to the breeders of the different dogs mentioned and to the ones unmentioned, some perhaps I cannot refer to because I have never seen them, but the type that I consider right and are most sought for are such as are to be seen on dogs as imported Lonely, bitch, and

Bowman, dog, and in small dogs I very much admire the head of Laick's 'Roy.' I only mention these hounds to describe what I consider a proper head for a beagle; besides which they are good in bone, coat and body. Royal Krueger, I have heard much of, but somehow have always missed seeing him and I am only acquainted with the owner of one of the dogs mentioned, so that I have no interest in writing of them.

"While writing I have before me some measurements which I have taken which I find useful as a criterion, if I have occasion to put the tape measure over any dog that takes my eye. I find that the head of a dog about fifteen inches high averages about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, the girth of the head double that, or very nearly. Some of the English dogs do not grow much over 13 inches, girth of head, but the cheeky, throaty hounds, whose voices are usually deeper have more head girth; girth of muzzle from 7 to  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches; a good pair of ears set on, low measured, naturally on, and a head will go from 17 to  $17\frac{3}{4}$  inches, such a dog will have deep flews and considerable dewlap; the eyes I prefer large as described by the standard, also I prefer them wide apart, so that the front edges of the ears are very little farther apart than the outside corners of the eyes, this latter marks the beagle characteristics strongly.

"For neck I prefer a fair length, but not enough to make the body long, as I consider it almost impossible to get a long neck without more length of body than I care for, as I find that from tip of the nose to set-on of tail in the dogs I look upon

as beagles in body, measure about 28 inches to a 15-inch dog and some less. I know of one 13-inch bitch that measures but 24 inches, and to bear out the staying qualities statement, she has run a fox track over 24 hours right away. I think most of the measurements quoted here for a 15-inch dog would be about in line with the standard as laid down by the Beagle Club, and it is by such a standard that all beagle men should insist on having their hounds judged, and if as 'Debonair' (Mr. Zimmer) says, such standard does not meet with the views of the representative beagle men, but I, for one, am not in favor of any change, for I consider it has been the aim of most breeders to breed to that standard and any radical change therein would be an injustice to them.

"If it is to please the views of those who have a dog or two that does not conform pretty nearly to the standard, it would be a still greater injustice to those who have spent both time and money to produce a typical beagle. No, let us breed to the standard as laid down and insist on having judges go by the standard, and if we see that they do not, why I am sure our friends will gladly welcome any honest criticism that is made in good faith, such as I have intended this to be.

"There is one thing more I want to refer to, and that is exhibitors who try to catch the eye or ear of a judge, either before the class goes into the ring, or at the time they go in, sometimes by posting the judge by saying, 'this is my dog Charter, by Scavenger Columbine, he took first and special at P. last year. Or when the class is called there is

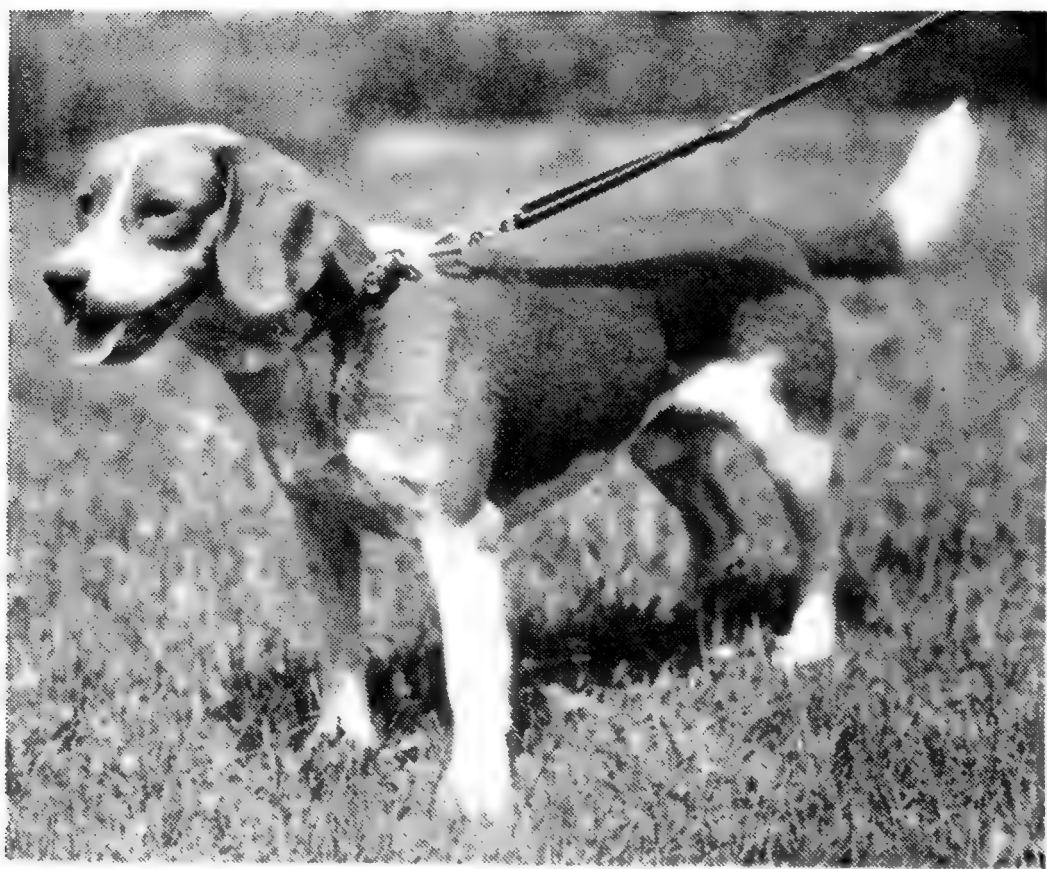
a blue or red ribbon on the dog's collar. Is this right? Is this fair to the exhibitor, who through some engagement, is unable to be present to handle, perhaps, his one or two dogs he has carefully bred, and for whom the rich breeder has no more respect that I have for some 'trundle tail' type? Is it for the good of any breed that judges will allow themselves to be so biased or that breeders will so dishonor themselves?"

In the same publication a writer signing himself "Chicasaw" writes under the heading, "Standard or Individual Opinions." "I think," he writes, "I will elect to write my little say on this subject under the above caption as I think it more definitely defines the chasm which seems to divide the ideas that some of our judges appear to have and the standard which they should uphold. I would like to know how many judges study the standard intelligently, which means carefully, and then seek to fit the dogs to them? Do they not gather their conceptions of what a good dog should be from the winners they find on the benches?"

"There are few men who can define the standard properly. Your Gloversville friend (Mr. Zimmer) refers to cobbiness in a beagle. I am not a beagle man, further than I like to see the little hounds and hear their cry, still a dog of the cobby build of Champion Royal Krueger, Champion Lonely, Bowman and but one or two more I could mention, catches my eye for the eternal fitness of things, very much quicker than would Molly, Champion Twin-two, or Wixom's Dorcas, I think her name is, which are long-backed, if I remember rightly. There will

never be a concensus of opinion upon the different values of a standard. 'A' judges St. Bernards; he must have type, extreme quality, markings and all that go to make a good St. Bernard head, and if a dog is able to round the ring without falling over, he'll get the prize, sure, provided he has the requisite head properties. Next show comes along 'B', a judge who believes head properties, markings, type, etc., easy enough to breed, sound legs and active movement are the *sine qua nons* he must look out for, and if he does not take care 'B' will do more harm than good, however requisite it is that these particular dogs should have better 'understandings.'

"Standards scale the value of points and their numbers show their relative value, but how many judges are there in America today, that if tackled in the ring, could give tables of point values correctly, or even approximately of the majority of the breeds they handle? Still this should be, in my estimation, the basis of a true judge's capabilities. In my idea, a true judge is one who, mindful of the standard, weighs each point in its proper relation to the whole. A woman may have beautiful eyes, but if she has a flat nose and a humpback, she does not appeal to one as a handsome woman. It is not from the super-excellence of any one point that breeders evolve perfection. It is rather from the selection of animals that, not superlatively good in one point, are good all round. How often do you hear some judge, when questioned as to his decision, on say a fox terrier, to make it easy, and it is pointed out to him how large the dog's ears are, how full



**The Beagle, Imported Thorpe Satchville Hamlet.**

in the eye, and short in the muzzle it is, exclaim, 'Ah! but I couldn't get away from his beautiful front!' Do forelegs and shoulders constitute the *alpha* and *omega* of a fox terrier? Not much! Give me the dog that as a whole comes nearer to the ideal set forth by the standard. Can Major Taylor tell us what standard he has had in mind when placing some of the field trial dogs high up in the scale of honor at dog shows? He had formed ideas of his own. Type was one thing, and seeming ability to gallop, which any setter not deformed, should be able to do was another and 'another' got the verdict.

"What are we to think of a judge who gives three money prizes to three dogs, each different in its general make-up? To be kind, I should say that the judge did not know what he did want, and that while recognizing the value of certain points he recognized them individually, and not as he should do collectively. One could scribble on this track till the end of your valuable paper, but I really do believe that some of our judges should be taught a realization of the importance of the duties they assume, and the power they have to make or mar a breed. Perhaps some judges may ask me what I would do with a class of dogs, none of which really came up to the standard of requirements, but were not bad enough to turn out of the ring. Beyond admitting that sometimes judges are misunderstood when they face such troublous condition, I will excuse myself."

From these quotations of more than a quarter of a century ago it will be observed that the standard

was misunderstood or it was misinterpreted with the same frequency as prevails at the present time, but it takes differences of opinion to make a dog show or field trial and the differences will continue. The beginner is advised to study the standard carefully and endeavor to breed dogs that will conform to it as nearly as possible, both with a view of breeding field performers and bench winners.

The full standard of the breed follows and that will close my book, but before doing so I wish to reiterate that the beagle classes at bench shows as well as field trials are divided into two classes; those that are thirteen inches and under and those that are over thirteen and under fifteen inches. The standard applies to both sizes.

### *The Beagle Standard*

AS ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL BEAGLE CLUB OF AMERICA.

*Head*—The skull should be fairly long, slightly domed at occiput, with cranium broad and full.

*Ears*—Ears set on moderately low, long, reaching when drawn out nearly, if not quite, to the end of the nose; fine texture, fairly broad—with almost entire absence of erectile power—setting close to the head with the forward edge slightly inturning to the cheek—rounded at the tip.

*Eyes*—Eyes large, set well apart—soft and hound-like—expression gentle and pleading; of a brown or hazel color.

*Muzzle*—Muzzle of medium length—straight and square cut—the stop moderately defined.

*Jaws*—Level. Lips free from flews; nostrils large and open.

*Defects*—A very flat skull, narrow across the top; excess of dome; eyes small, sharp and terrier-like, or prominent and protruding; muzzle long, snipey or cut



away decidedly below the eyes, or very short. Roman nosed, or upturned, giving a dish-faced expression. Ears short, set on high or with a tendency to rise above the point of origin.

*Body, Neck and Throat*—Neck rising free and light from the shoulders, strong in substance yet not loaded, of medium length. The throat clean and free from folds of skin; a slight wrinkle below the angle of the jaw, however, may be allowable.

*Defects*—A thick, short, cloddy neck carried on a line with the top of the shoulders. Throat showing dewlap and folds of skin to a degree termed “throati-ness.”

*Shoulders and Chest*—Shoulders sloping—clean, muscular, not heavy or loaded—conveying the idea of freedom of action with activity and strength. Chest deep and broad, but not broad enough to interfere with the free play of the shoulders.

*Defects*—Straight, upright shoulders. Chest disproportionately wide or with lack of depth.

*Back, Loin and Ribs*—Back short, muscular and strong. Loin broad and slightly arched, and the ribs well sprung, giving abundance of lung room.

*Defects*—Very long or swayed or roached back. Flat, narrow loins. Flat ribs.

*Fore Legs*—Straight, with plenty of bone in proportion to size of the dog. Pasterns short and straight.

*Feet*—Close, round and firm. Pad full and hard.

*Defects*—Out at elbows. Knees knuckled over forward or bent backward. Fore legs crooked, or Dachs-hund-like. Feet long, open or spreading.

*Hips and Thighs*—Strong and well muscled, giving abundance of propelling power. Stifles strong and well let down. Hocks firm, symmetrical and moderately bent. Feet close and firm.

*Defects*—Cow hocks or straight hocks. Lack of muscle and propelling power. Open feet.

*Tail*—Set moderately high; carried gaily, but not turned forward over the back, with slight curve; short as compared with the size of the dog; with brush.

*Defects*—A long tail. Teapot curve or inclined forward from the root. Rat tail, with absence of brush.

*Coat*—A close, hard, hound coat of medium length.

*Defects*—A short thin coat, or of a soft quality.

*Height*—Height not to exceed 15 inches; measured across the back at the point of the withers, the dog standing in a natural position with his feet well under him.

*Color*—Any true hound color.

*General Appearance*—A miniature Foxhound, solid and big for his inches, with the wear-and-tear look of the dog that can last in the chase and follow his quarry to the death.

#### SCALE OF POINTS.

Skull .....	5
Ears .....	10
Eyes .....	5
Muzzle .....	5
Neck .....	5
Chest and shoulders .....	15
Back, loins and ribs .....	15
Fore legs .....	10
Hips, thighs and hind legs .....	10
Feet .....	10
Coat .....	5
Stern .....	5
<hr/>	
Total .....	100

[THE END.]







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